

FAMILY MATTERS



IN WEST PARK

Winter 2016

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Cosas de Familias

कथं कादवभक्तक

14th Annual Neighborhood Summit

By Zayra Ramos-Ortiz, North Coast Latina editor

A sensational event was held at Blessed Trinity Church where residents of the neighborhood got together for Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation's (BPDC) Annual Neighborhood Summit Celebration on the evening of October 28th. The theme this year was "Celebrating Our Diversity."

The celebration started with John Marshall High School Air Force JROTC students presenting the flags, and the subsequent singing of the National Anthem by Da'Jzhanae Smith.

Katie Ringenbach, Rockport Library Branch Manager and master of ceremonies, introduced Melissa Miller from BPDC, who spoke about the development updates on our neighborhood. They are as follows:

- John Marshall High School (JMHS) came home to its 21st century building on W 140th Street and is now the site of four high schools: a comprehensive model for upper grades and three specialty schools that will eventually have 9th-12th graders. They are: JMHS School of Engineering, JMHS School of Civic and Business Leadership, and the JMHS School of Information Technology.
- The construction on Lorain Avenue is mostly finished, from W 117th to W 140th St, and is to make the street more safe for drivers, walkers, and bicyclists.

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La celebración anual no. 14 de la vecindad

Por Zayra Ramos-Ortiz de North Coast Latina

Un evento sensacional se celebró en la Santa Iglesia de la Trinidad donde los residentes del barrio se reunieron para su celebración anual del Neighborhood Summit de Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation (BPDC) en la tarde del 28 de octubre. El tema este año fue "celebrando nuestra diversidad."



Bombers cheerleaders excited to represent as they received the Community Builder of the Year Award

La celebración empezó con cuatro estudiantes de JROTC de la fuerza aérea de la nueva escuela superior John Marshall con la presentación de las banderas y el himno nacional cantado por una más, Da'Jzhanae Smith.

Katie Ringenbach, la Gerente de la sucursal de la biblioteca de Rockport, que hizo el papel de maestro de ceremonia y dio las palabras de bienvenida.

La Sra. Ringenbach anunció a Melissa Miller de BPDC, que habló sobre las actualizaciones de desarrollo en nuestra comunidad. Estos son los siguientes:

1. el nuevo edificio para John Marshall, el sitio de cuatro colegios: School of Engineering (Escuela del la Ingeniería), School of Civic & Business Leadership (Escuela del Liderazgo Cívico y Comercial), y School of Information Technology (Escuela de la Tecnología Informática) y una escuela comprehensiva para los estudiantes

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First of its kind, GALA opens for K-1st grade



GALA Principal Jessica Gilway

GALA will be the first Mandarin immersion school in the state. The plan is to open the first language immersion school this fall 2016 in the building formerly occupied by St. Vincent De Paul (SVDP) School on West Park's Lorain Ave., near the

W.140th St. "Education Corridor."

Studies suggest that bilingualism (understanding two languages) and language immersion education (learning in two languages) is beneficial for academic success, cultural competency, and the brain's cognitive function and perhaps even mental health. Research is available at the GALA website, www.gala-prek8.org on language immersion education as a process of learning and the benefits of the immersion model.

Students in our neighborhood, and anywhere in Ohio, of any income or ethnicity, and perhaps who have no exposure to either of GALA's target languages for immersion (Mandarin or Spanish), can become bilingual here. The goal of the school is for students who speak one language to learn two languages, no matter if their parents only speak English, too.

GALA's program will immerse English-speaking students into Spanish or Mandarin by teaching nearly everything — art, science and math — in the target language. The idea, in part, is that students fluent in two languages will have an advantage in the global job market. In this way, immersion is considered a value-added educational program.

Founder, Meran Rogers says, "preschool is in our plan, but we will likely not start that program until after our first year of operation. In our first year, we are only enrolling grades K-1. We will grow a grade every year until we reach PreK-8."

Because Rogers was born to immigrants newly arrived from both Poland and Taiwan, there were multiple languages at home with English being used rather late in her youth. She reported to Crain's Cleveland, "I didn't learn how to read until late in the first grade," she said. "It wasn't until we moved to Lakewood at the end of first grade that I was put in an ESL (English as a Second Language) class."

As an adult, she realized learning a second or

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Tuesdays in the Triangle start for youth

By Vanessa Lange

The southwest corner of West Park along W. 130th St., also known as "The Triangle," has long been an area of the neighborhood with few quality afterschool opportunities for youth. Bellaire Puritas Development Corporation, in partnership with Councilman Brian Kazy and West Preparatory Academy, is taking the first steps to change that situation in 2016. A new program, "Tuesdays in the Triangle" is being offered for 5th-8th grade students after school afternoons January through April. This new program will offer a variety of opportunities for youth to pursue their interests and learn new skills.

Starting in January, teaching artist Jessica Hodges of the Antaeus Dance Company will teach hip-hop,

jazz, and modern styles. In March, the youth will delve into the world of video game design using Game Maker Studio, provided by the GigaLearn technology education program. The year will finish up in April with a mixed media art class provided by Art House, which will feature creative projects such as papermaking and collage.

All "Tuesday in the Triangle" programs will be held at West Preparatory Academy on Crossburn Ave. Principal Jennifer Heyman is excited to open the school's doors to the community and provide a safe space for youth to go after school. While the program is starting off small with Tuesdays for an hour after school, West Preparatory is open to the possibility of expanding hours in the future. Councilman Kazy is particularly committed to increas-

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West Park remains home to the choicest properties

A recent survey from Thriving Communities Institute of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy reported that West Park comes out on top for structure quality, as compared to all structures across the city. This new report finds that over 95% of properties in Ward 16 & 17, (19,000!) received A or B ratings on quality of the structure's conditions.

Overall, 92% of structures in the Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation (BPDC) area were rated A or B, meaning this neighborhood is a premium place to buy, invest, and rehab.

Less than a third of 1% of properties in Ward 16 and Ward 17, which comprises most of West

Park, received D or F grades. Toni Jones, housing director at BPDC, has been following those structures for a while and is not surprised by them being listed in that category due to BPDC's diligence in code enforcement.

Code enforcement and voluntary compliance on the part of property owners may contribute to the study's finding that in the Bellaire-Puritas statistical planning area (SPA) alone, there is more than a 50% chance that any house is of the highest condition. Code enforcement highlights preventative maintenance that properties need that can thwart dangerous neglect that otherwise snowballs into abandoned properties or costly

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Ice skating on a family budget

Parents can entertain the kids or be a kid again with the convenience of an outdoor ice rink at Halloran Park on the edge of West Park. Inexpensive exercise for all ages is hidden in the wonder of winter fun with \$0.25 to get on the ice if you bring your own skates and only a \$1.00 combined fee for skate rental and admission.

Open skate is from 3-4pm Monday through Friday and 3-5pm on Saturday. Tuesday and Friday night, all ages can enjoy open skate from 6:30-7:30 pm, as well.

Halloran Ice Rink Center, like Gunning Recreation Center and other municipal rec centers and some branches of the Cleveland Public Library, is also a great place for school-age youth to get a free, nutritious meal after-school from 4:30pm-5:30pm.

If you or your crew needs lessons, Friday nights and Saturday mornings ice skating lessons for youth are offered and adults can take lessons on Saturdays. Youth hockey is also offered for youth 5-8, 9-10, 11-12, and 13-14 throughout the week. Ladies broom hockey league plays on Wednesday nights and all adults can get on the ice on Mondays at noon for "Stick and Puck."

The first session of lessons has already started, but a second session open to beginners starts immediately after The Ice Show, an annual tradition at the rink.

The Ice Show is free and features entertainment by skaters of many different levels, displaying their skills and artistry. Friday, February 12, 2016, adults and youth are welcomed to the Halloran Ice Rink to enjoy the show. Call Mallory at Halloran, located at 3550 W. 117th St. at 664-4187 with questions or for more information.

West Park properties cont...

repairs. Letters sent to properties by BPDC guide owners in how to steer clear of property problems and housing court.

Cleveland.com reported Jim Rokakis, vice president of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and director of its Thriving Communities Institute, a program pushing to strengthen Ohio's urban cities, said that the Far West Side neighborhoods benefited from being built to high-quality standards and cited the strong institutions of today, such as churches, as reasons they stay in good shape.

In the same article from November 21, 2015, Rev. Douglas Koesel, the pastor of Blessed Trinity at West 140th and Puritas Avenue, in the heart of Bellaire-Puritas's SPA, was quoted by journalist John Caniglia as saying:

"This is great news," Koesel said. "We work hard at this. It's important for churches, schools and businesses to preserve what we have. Churches are

signs of stability in a neighborhood. They're signs of hope. They're signs of continuity to the past."

In addition, Rokakis stressed the strong sense of community on the Far West Side. In the November 21st article, he said hundreds of city employees never left the neighborhoods when the Ohio Supreme Court overturned residency requirements in June 2009.

No doubt, this is because home owners and business owners have been investing in these properties for years and turning around and supporting local businesses by shopping locally, too.

Find a property's grade online by searching here: http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2015/11/search_cleveland_properties_to.html#incart_story_package.



West Park MyCom Youth Talent Showcase

Thursday February 4th, 5:30-7pm

Bard High School Auditorium

13501 Terminal Ave

Performances and displays from West Park's talented youth!

All youth programs in West Park are invited to show off their participants' talent and creativity with a performance, display or demonstration.

Contact Vanessa at Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation for more information: (216) 671-2710 or v.lange@bpdc.org.



Help with school choices

Cleveland Transformation Alliance (CTA) ambassadors: Rachael A. Sauber (lead for the far west cluster of Cleveland schools), Robin Turner, and Heather Forsythe, and additionally, Danny Kelly from the Family and Community Engagement Office (FACE) of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) are all west side contacts who want to help parents understand their school choices better to find the best fit for each family in our neighborhood, with their unique interests and needs in mind.

Visiting prospective schools, speaking to parents with children enrolled at specific schools, and talking to teachers and administrators can help parents get to know a school more in-depth than simply reading school ratings and reviews.

The CTA ambassadors can be reached by calling the main office at and asking to speak with them by name. CTA wants to hire three more part-time ambassadors for the far west

Cont. on page 8...

Gunning Park

By Daisy Stiegelmeyer, age 17, 12th grader at Ohio Virtual Academy at Tri-C student

Gunning Park I will always hold dear to my heart,
this was my real first job and it will hurt when I must part.

The rec has the best gym in town;
we even had it renovated so it's a nice new ground

We have the best manager Ed, who is so hip and cool,
and the best lifeguards, Kyran and Joe in our pool.

Nydia and Carlitos rock the sports show,
and don't forget Marie ask her anything and she will know.

The kids who come to play on the court have much skill,
I'm sure we would beat you, I'm sure we will.

I have met some awesome friends who are great;
I wish I could have worked here when I was eight.

I work here but I also play here,
and we love all the seniors who are so dear.

This rec is by far the best.
Now my poem has come to a rest,
come visit Gunning Rec,
I hope you do,
I'm sure us staff will be there too.

Tuesdays in the Triangle cont...

ing access to youth opportunities in this part of the neighborhood and has hopes of eventually opening a space where youth can go every day after school.

"Tuesdays in the Triangle" programming is funded by the Cuyahoga County Council through the Starting Point Out-of-School Time grant program. Funds have been committed for the 2015-2016 school year, with the potential for renewal for an addi-

tional two years. Additional funding will be pursued to expand offerings in the future.

All programs are expected to fill up quickly. Early registration is recommended. Registration forms are available online at Bellaire Puritas Development Corporation, West Preparatory Academy, and online at www.bpdc.org. Please direct any questions to Vanessa at (216) 671-2710 or v.lange@bpdc.org.

Tuesdays in the Triangle start for youth

Program	Dates	Time	Registration Deadline
Dance	Tuesdays Jan. 12- Feb. 16	4:15-5:30pm	Tuesday Jan. 5
Video Game Design	Tuesdays Mar. 1 - 22	4:15-5:30pm	Tuesday Feb. 23
Mixed Media Art	Tuesdays Apr. 5 - May 3	4:15-5:30pm	Tuesday March 22

Robinson G. Jones is regionally recognized



Boys Team bring home hardware

Boys and girls from Robinson G. Jones and Artemus Ward elementary schools participated as poet-athletes in the America SCORES-Cleveland poetry slam at Cuyahoga Community College's Metro Campus (Tri-C). The boys team at RG Jones won the Bronze Mic Award (third place) for the poem they performed together.

Each team also submitted one member to perform individual poems. Darryl Jackson was recognized for having one of the top six poetry performances of all 18 individuals, boys and girls, and was in the top three for boys. Congrats, Rockets!

Debi Pence-Meyenberg, executive director of the Cleveland office of America SCORES was quoted by CMSD as saying, "(We) teach our poet-athletes the values of teamwork, leadership and commitment through daily soccer, creative writing and service-learning programming."

America SCORES was founded in Washington, DC and serves 600 CMSD students at 9 schools and 8,000 students nationwide. Students play soccer half the week and write the other half of the week, all after school. SCORES sponsors the Poetry Slam in the fall and in the spring they hold a soccer tournament and engage in community service projects the poet-athletes propose.

Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation (BPDC) supports America SCORES presence in our neighborhood with West Park MyCom (www.bpdc.org/mycom) funds and Greater Cleveland Neighborhood Centers Association (GCNCA). BPDC enhanced the impact of SCORES there by running a visual poetry workshop with Art House, Inc. professional artists.

Wraparound makes a difference

Community "wraparound" services are helping to raise test scores, attendance and parental involvement while reducing disciplinary problems at RG Jones and 24 other targeted schools, according to reports from CMSD, with partnerships with local lead agencies. BPDC is the United Way lead agency for RG Jones and GCNCA provides funds to help with this initiative. A site coordinator at each school organizes outside assistance ranging from tutoring, mentoring and arts enrichment to food and clothing, and at RG Jones it is Mary Jo Cotner, a BPDC employee. Many efforts, including SCORES and Art House, Inc. afterschool, are a part of the overall wraparound strategy BPDC is responsible to implement at RG Jones as part of the CMSD Investment Schools strategy.

"If we ask them [principals] what is the one thing you cannot give up if we scaled back ... it unanimously is, 'We cannot give up the wraparound school model,'" CMSD News Bureau reports Gordon said at an event at Tri-C. Principal Melissa Watts will be



Principal Watts, seated on the far right of the panel

featured on a television program about turnaround schools that was filmed in December at WVIZ studios downtown. Principal Watts was selected to represent R.G. Jones (out of all 23 CMSD Investment Schools) and speak about success as a turnaround school. The program was called *Making Connections: Leading School Improvement* and it was produced by the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL). It may air on WVIZ/Ideastream early in 2016.

Two Play 60 champs

Josh Abdallah, a 5th grader, and Selena Smith, an 8th grader were two recognized students, among 11 winners from around the Greater Cleveland area, for logging the most minutes of physical activity during a given month, Leslie Nall, physical education teacher at RG Jones, reports.

The NFL Play 60 Challenge is a voluntary program schools across the country participated in, locally with the Cleveland Browns. The goal is for youth to have 60 minutes every day of physical activity. The 4-week program was a collaboration with the American Heart Association.

Josh and Selena were recognized on the field at the December 6th Browns game against the Cincinnati Bengals, and they were invited to bring guests to the game for free.

If Josh, Selena, and the poet-athletes of West Park inspire you, register to walk a mile or complete a 5K on Saturday, April 30th as part of the 4th Annual Run Puritas, benefiting BPDC's youth and senior programs. See www.peaceracing.com to register or call 216-671-2710 ext. 216 and talk to Rachel. The \$20 pre-registration price includes a commemorative t-shirt for the first 200 registrants to either walk or run the 1 mile or 5K. (Five kilometers is 3.1 miles.)

Winning local poet-athlete



Darryl Jackson, 5th grade Robinson G. Jones poet-athlete, wrote and performed *The Life* at Cuyahoga Community College in front of hundreds of spectators and poet-athletes as part of the 11th Annual America SCORES Cleveland Poetry Slam on November 13, 2015. His performance was in the top 3 for individual boy poets. (See story to the left.)

The Life

By: Darryl Jackson

*I wake up in the morning thinking
what I'm gonna do*

*But then I gotta see if everything
would go through*

First I go to school then I go to practice

Did you know I'm good at mathematics

Everyone know what I'm bout to say

I hope everything gonna go the way

This is the life

I roll the dice

I play it for real

This is the deal

I'm saying it now

Talking to the crowd

*Look at me now while I look at
the clouds*

People to Know

By Monisa Mason



I am the Community & Business Coordinator for the School of Civic and Business Leadership at John Marshall High School.

I will be leading the opening of the school coffee shop that some of the business students will manage. I will coordinate community service opportunities, build community partnerships and last but not least, help to develop our students into the successful business leaders and entrepreneurs that I know that they will become.

With the right amount of time, dedication, hard work, exposure, and a positive mindset, I am confident we can work effectively as a team, which includes the staff, families, our community members, and John Marshall alumni, for the greater good of our students!

Here's a little information about me, including a few fun facts:

- I am a Cleveland native and attended high school at Maple Heights High School. Upon graduation, I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and Journalism from the University of Toledo. From there, I pursued my Master's degree in Entertainment Business from Full Sail University.
- Prior to working at John Marshall High School, I was the Family Outreach Manager at Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy for almost 3 years. I also currently serve on the Bridge Board for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland. I

have been working in education and community development for about 5 years.

- I have an 8 year old son, named Jayden, who keeps me going every day!
- I plan on going skydiving within the next year; don't worry, it won't be a school field trip!

I am very excited to work with our students, staff, the parents and our community members. We have a lot in store for the School of Civic and Business Leadership here at John Marshall!

If you are interested in collaborating in any way, from providing resource assistance, being a professional mentor for our students, being a guest speaker, allowing our students to visit your local business, providing community service or internship opportunities, then let's connect! Feel free to contact me at monisa_mason@yahoo.com or 838-6050.

Coffee shop opening!

John Marshall students submitted name ideas last semester for an on-site, student-run coffee shop business and all of the business students voted on them. The Lawyers Café tentatively opens February 1st for students to make purchases before school only, for now. Marketing, research and development, finance and customer service teams employs 33 students. Pete Mitchell of Mitchell's Ice Cream kicked off the training for the customer service team and there was a field trip to Rising Star Coffee Shop, too. Rising Star is a local roaster and café on the near west side that is the lead sponsor of the student's business. Eventually, Lawyers Café will have community business hours, as well.

West Park Youth Resources

Art & Performance

America Scores-poetry & spoken word	216-881-7988
Art House, Inc.	216-398-8556
Bellaire Puritas Development Corp./ West Park MyCom	216-671-2710
Brady Campbell Irish Dance School	216-926-4423
Center for Families and Children-RapArt	216-252-5800
Joyful Noise Music School	216-952-4398
Rockport Teen Center	216-623-7053
Schools As Neighborhood Resources	216-658-1360

Academic

America Scores-writing enrichment	216-881-7988
Building Hope in the City	216-281-4673
College Now	216-870-8611
Learning Together Tutoring Program for Artemus Ward	216-920-7055
Riverside Park After-School program	216-476-4172
Rockport Branch Library and Teen Center	216-623-7053
Schools As Neighborhood Resources	216-658-1360
The EDGE at RG Jones After-School program	216-920-7143
West Park Salvation Army	216-252-3593

Religious

Blessed Trinity Youth Ministry	216-671-5890
Second Calvary Baptist Church Youth Ministry	216-252-1050
St. Paul AME-Youth Ministry Programs	216-941-6767
U-Turn Ministries of Gateway West Community Church	440-941-4238
West Park Salvation Army	216-252-3593
West Park United Church of Christ Youth Group	216-671-7228
West Park Evangelical Friends	216-251-6976

Employment

Bellaire Puritas Development Corp./ West Park MyCom	216-671-2710
Youth Opportunities Unlimited	216-566-5445

Youth Leadership

AmazinnMe Bridge Program for Girls	216-209-0760
Bellaire Puritas Development Corp./ West Park MyCom	216-671-2710
Boy Scouts	216-861-6060
Girl Scouts of NEO	440-233-6112
Operation StandUP	216-282-5822
West Park YMCA & Teen Center	216-941-5410

Sports

All American Karate	440-331-0009
America Scores-soccer	216-881-7988
Cleveland Bombers	216-800-1823
Gunning Recreation Center	216-420-7910
Halloran Recreation Center	216-664-4187
Schools as Neighborhood Resources at John Marshall	216-838-6000
Valley Riding Inc.	216-267-2525
W. 130th Tri-League	216-476-8456
West Park YMCA & Teen Center	216-941-5410

Other Offerings

Center for Families and Children-counseling	216-252-5800
Cleveland Metroparks	440-734-6660
Neighborhood Education Committee	216-671-2710
Rockport Teen Center	216-623-7053
West Park Coalition Community Lab	216-941-5050
West Park Kiwanis school-based programs	216-252-1364
West Park Branch Library	216-623-7102
Hasani Management gardening program	216-245-5167

Good news for public education

Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) had positive gains in academics and attendance recently, giving confidence and hope in public school choices in West Park. The neighborhood is home to seven tuition-free schools labeled either high- or mid-performing by the Cleveland Transformation Alliance (CTA). Additionally, CTA touts four tuition-free high schools here that are too new to be rated and so labeled promising options. See www.clevelandta.org for more details.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), referred to as Nation's Report Card, is given every two years and CMSD was one of only three districts in a national group of large urban school districts to improve on all four sections of the test.

Even beyond urban school districts, CMSD had the second largest gains in the country for 4th grade reading and the fourth largest gain in the nation on 5th grade math. District 8th graders had the fourth largest gains in reading in the nation and the fifth highest gains in math among 21 large urban districts.

Much of the improvement in reading scores, according to CMSD's press release was due to the improvement in reading of disabled students and black, male students.

"The community should be encouraged and confident that more improvement is in store, as the school system is clearly on the right track," said Michael Casserly, executive director of the Council of Great City Schools.

In October, CMSD reported attendance gains include 1,700 more students on track to miss fewer than 10 days of the entire school year, compared to the last three year's average, strengthening that expectation of continual improvement. Students who miss more than 10 days typically score 12-15 points lower on reading and math tests and 9th and 10th graders are 34 percent less likely to graduate high school if they miss that much school. To join the community-wide attendance campaign, contact 838-0220 or visit www.get2schoolcleveland.com.

Casserly added that CMSD's gains are uniformly larger and better than any district in the country.

"After years of finishing last or nearly last among other big-city school districts in the nation, the 2015 scores are the best indicator we have so far that our reforms are working," CMSD CEO

Eric Gordon said, in reference to The Cleveland Plan, a specialized educational reform package for Cleveland.

Parents and experts agree that more progress is needed and community support, rallying together for families and schools, especially around literacy, has a profound positive impact.

From the desk of Councilman Brian Kazy

FAMILY MATTERS! I just absolutely love the title of this newspaper. My wife, Dawn and I are proud parents of five children. Patrick – 19, Mackenzie – 16, Nora – 11, Brianna – 8 and Raegan – 6.

As I reflect on watching my son recently graduate from St. Edward High School and transition to Cleveland State University, I am reminded how fast time flies and how important it is to not only keep the family close but to create memories along the way. We are all caught up in work, play and everyday routines that we sometimes take for granted what is most important to us and what is right under our noses. Our children will not be children for very long.

I can remember like yesterday warming baby bottles, changing diapers and watching a child take their first steps. Today, there are no more baby bottles, no more diapers and they all know how to walk! Today, we are creating different memories. We can all have discussions about the condition of the streets, the lack of city services or crime but, in the long run, although important to provide a great neighborhood and an awesome quality of life, those things should all take a back seat to the family.

I am reminded by M. Grundler when he said, "The best inheritance a parent can give to his children is a few minutes of their time each day." I encourage each and every one of you to take a look at your child, parent, aunt, uncle or neighbor and just give them one minute of your time today. I guarantee that it will not only inspire you, but it will put a smile on your face and give you a warm sensation.

Thank you and remember, always call if I can help 251-2331!

Councilman Brian Kazy

Youth and Family Dates to Know

Recurring Events:

Anime Club every 1st Tuesday for any age youth or family at 4:30 pm at Rockport library*

Chess Club every 1st and 3rd Thursdays at Rockport library branch at 4:30 pm, any age youth or family*

Lego Club March 17, 21, April 25, and May 23 at 4:30 pm any age youth or family at Rockport Library*

Fashion Club 3:30-5pm at West Park Library every 1st and 3rd Tuesday (For 5th-9th grade)**

Youth Leadership Council 5:30-7pm at BPDC 2nd and 4th Tuesday (For 9th-12th grade), 14703 Puritas Avenue

Teen Job Club every Wednesday 4:15-5:30pm at John Marshall High School (For 8th-12th grade)*****

Kids Café every Monday-Friday (free afterschool meal at Rockport library) from 3:30 - 4:30 pm*

Free meal for all students in K-12, weekdays at 4:30 pm at Gunning Recreation Center, 16700 Puritas Ave.

Free meal for all students in K-12, weekdays at 4:30 pm at Halloran Skating Rink, 16700 Puritas Ave.****

Free-for-all Fridays for all youth at Rockport library at 4:30 pm every Friday involves Wii U, digital drums, keyboard and sometimes iPads*

America Reads free tutoring service at Rockport library every Monday-Thursday from 3 - 6 pm for K-8th graders from any school*

Tutoring is freely available on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings to all K-12th graders from 6-8pm at Schools as Neighborhood Resources inside John Marshall High School*****

Prime Time Family Time each Friday from 6-9pm at the West Park YMCA, an activity the whole family can participate in like family boot camp, volleyball, mini-carnivals with a bounce house and karaoke, and even parent's night out every month (parent's night out is only activity with a cost).***

January

Jan. 19th, Tuesday at 6 pm, Review of senior housing building design and proposal, St. Vincent DePaul Church Hall, downstairs, 13400 Lorain Avenue

Jan. 20th, Make a feather bookmark at Rockport Library* branch at 4:30 pm, any age youth

Jan. 20th, Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:30 pm, FAFSA night (sponsored by College Now) at John Marshall*****

Jan. 23rd, American Red Cross Babysitting Certification Class 10am-3pm at West Park YMCA. FREE with advance registration (normally \$75). Call Vanessa at BPDC to register at 671-2710 or download forms at www.bpdc.org.***

Jan. 25th, Enrollment for Kindergarten through 12th grade at all Cleveland Metropolitan School District schools opens for the 2015-2016 school year. Enroll at 216-838-ENRL (3675) and for information on transportation options call 216-838-4BUS (4287). Check www.clevelandmetroschools.org and www.clevelandTA.org or call 211

for information on school choice and all tuition-free school ratings.

Jan. 25th-Jan. 27th, High School Choice Fair for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) at the CSU Wolstein Center. Contact Danny Kelly at the Family and Community Engagement Office of CMSD for more information at 216-534-9049. Download the CMSD high school choice guide at www.clevelandmetroschools.org and consult www.clevelandTA.org or 211 for has independent ratings for tuition-free Cleveland public and charter high schools.

Jan. 28th, Minions Movie at Rockport Library* branch at 4:30 pm, any age youth or family.

February

Ongoing, first come, first serve enrollment for Kindergarten through 12th grade at all CMSD schools opens for the 2015-2016 school year. Enroll at 838-ENRL (3675). Check www.clevelandmetroschools.org and www.clevelandTA.org or call 211 for information.

Feb. 4th, Rolling and Responsive Mini Grant program deadline. This grant provided by Cleveland Neighborhood Progress was created to assist with quick financial needs for grassroots groups that want to benefit the community. To learn more and received an application, email oandaleadership@gmail.com or call Susan at 216.429.1182 ext. 132. The next grant deadline after February will be April 7th.

Feb. 4th, West Park MyCom Youth Talent Showcase 5:30-7pm at Bard High School Early College, 13501 Terminal Avenue

Feb. 5th, Super Bowl Pizza Party 4:00 pm at Rockport Library* branch, any age youth or family

Feb. 9th, Make a bouncy ball at Rockport Library* branch at 4:30 pm, any age youth

Feb. 11th - Mar. 10th, Thursdays, 4:30-5:45pm, 4th-6th Grade Ceramics at John Marshall High School*****

Feb. 12th, Neighborhood Connections Grant Deadline. Grants range from \$500 to \$5,000 and are available to groups of residents in Cleveland and East Cleveland to do projects that improve the quality of life in their communities. For more information: www.neighborhoodgrants.org

Feb. 12th, Friday, 6-7:30pm, Ice Show at Halloran Ice Rink,**** 3550 W 117th St, free admission

Feb. 16th, President's Day Scavenger Hunt at Rockport Library* branch at 4:30 pm, any age youth or family

Feb. 19th, Friday - Halloran ice skating, Friday youth lesson series starts 5-6pm, register in advance****

Feb. 20th, Saturday - Halloran ice skating, both youth lesson & adult lesson Saturday sessions starts at 10am, register in advance****

Feb. 25th, Black History Month program at Riverside Park Estates, 17800 Parkmount Ave., open to the public at 5:30pm

Feb. 25th, Kid's Choice Movie at Rockport Library* branch at 4:30 pm, any age youth or family

March

Ongoing, first come, first serve enrollment for Kindergarten through 12th grade at all CMSD schools at 838-ENRL (3675). Check www.clevelandmetroschools.org and www.clevelandTA.org or call 211 for information.

Mar. 1st, deadline for 9th graders to apply for the 2016 Law and Leadership Summer Institute (June 27-29th, 9am-4pm), the beginning of potentially a 4 year program that has field trips, internships, mock trials, and opportunities to meet judges and attorneys and explore a career in law. The program, lunch, and transportation are free. www.lawandleadership.org

Mar. 1-22nd, Tuesdays 4:15-5:30pm, "Tuesdays in the Triangle," Video Game Design class at West Preparatory Academy. Contact Vanessa at 671-2710 at BPDC to register

Mar. 2nd, Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration/Lorax Movie at Rockport Library* branch, any age youth or family, 4:00 pm

Mar. 5th, School Quality Fair, Public Auditorium, 500 Lakeside Ave, high-quality preschools and K-8th grade public and charter schools will be there. Contact the Cleveland Transformation Alliance at 912-9600 for details.

Mar. 7th PreKindergarten enrollment opens for children age 4 by Sept. 30, 2015. Must be done at the school of parent's choosing with all necessary paperwork. Call 838-0110 for more details.

Mar. 7th - 11th, Teen Tech Week at Rockport Library branch at 4:30 pm Mar. 17th, St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt at Rockport Library* branch at 4:30 pm, any age youth or family

Mar. 22nd, Teen Craft at Rockport Library* branch at 4:30 pm-Bubble Art

April

Ongoing, first come, first serve enrollment for Kindergarten through 12th grade at all CMSD schools at 838-ENRL (3675). Check www.clevelandmetroschools.org and www.clevelandTA.org or call 211 for information.

Apr. 1st, Deadline for applying for a paid summer ArtWorks apprenticeship. See the "Youth Employment Training" page at www.bpdc.org for more information.

Apr. 5th - May 3rd, Tuesdays 4:15-5:30pm, "Tuesdays in the Triangle," Mixed media art class at West Preparatory Academy. Contact Vanessa at 671-2710 at BPDC to register

Apr. 7th, Rolling and Responsive Mini Grant program deadline. This grant provided by Cleveland Neighborhood Progress was created to assist with quick financial needs for grassroots groups that want to benefit the community. To learn more and received an application, email oandaleadership@gmail.com or call Susan at 216.429.1182 ext. 132.

Apr. 11th, Hotel Transylvania movie at Rockport Library* branch at 4:30 pm, any age youth or family

Apr. 12th, Hotel Transylvania 2 movie at Rockport Library* branch at 4:30 pm, any age youth or family

Apr. 12th - May 10th, Tuesdays 4:00-5:15pm, 8th-12th grade Digital Art at Lyric Community Center

Apr. 14th, Teen craft at Rockport Library* branch at 4:30 pm - Oriental Lanterns

Apr. 19th, Spring coloring contest at Rockport Library* branch at 4:30 pm, any age youth

Apr. 23rd (Tentative), Summer Job JumpStart teen employment fair. Location tbd, call Vanessa at 671-2710 to register

Apr. 30th, 4th Annual Run Puritas 5K race & 1 mile fun run/walk, 8:30am start at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, 14040 Puritas Ave., Registration and information at www.peaceracing.com and by calling Rachel at BPDC at 216-671-2710 ext. 216. Participate as an individual, family, school, church, club, or workplace in our annual fundraiser.

May

Ongoing, first come, first serve enrollment for Kindergarten through 12th grade at all CMSD schools at 838-ENRL (3675). Check www.clevelandmetroschools.org and www.clevelandTA.org or call 211 for information.

May 4th, Star Wars Day at Rockport Library* branch at 4:30 pm, any age youth or family

May 5th-June 9th, Thursdays, Parade the Circle Family Art Workshop with Art House, Inc, at Lyric Community Center at 3847 W. 140th St. from 4:30-5:45pm in preparation for the parade in University Circle on June 11th. Register with Vanessa at 671-2710 at BPDC.

May 9th - 13th, Superhero Week at Rockport Library* branch at 4:30 pm, any age youth or family

May 24th, Exotic Fruit Tasting at Rockport Library* branch at 4:30 pm

Locations

*Rockport branch library; 4421 W. 140th St.; 216-623-7053

**West Park branch library; 3805 W. 157th St.; 216-623-7102

***West Park YMCA; 15501 Lorain Ave.; 216-941-5410

****Halloran Ice Rink; 3550 W 117th St.; 216-664-4187

*****John Marshall High School; 3952 W. 140th St.; 216-838-6000

Fashion Club at West Park CPL

Employment training, art, and fun, come in many styles.

Based on public input into the West Park MyCom Youth Development Plan, Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation (BPDC) has unveiled a Fashion Club that meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at the West Park branch of the Cleveland Public Library (CPL). Projects and information will have appeal for both boys and girls, ages 11-14, interested in fashion.

In January, March, and May professional designers and seamstresses from Stitch Cleveland will lead workshops

on embroidery, careers in the fashion industry, and using sewing machines.

For registration and details, contact Vanessa Lange at BPDC at 671-2710 ext. 218 or visit www.bpdc.org.



Teen Job Club explores

The West Park Teen Job Club took a field trip to Ohio City Bike Co-op to learn about bikes and hands-on careers. The club is open to all 8th-12th graders, meets on Wednesdays and attracted 59 total teens from 7 schools this last semester.

All teens are welcomed to learn more about local jobs, job searching, interviewing, and future careers with their peers at 3952 W. 140th St. on the John Marshall Campus. The club meets 4:15 pm to 5:30 pm in Room 111.

Youth have participated in community service during club meetings and been invited to participate in larger community service projects like our local Make a Difference Day project, painting at the West Park-Fairview YMCA. Service projects not only build skills to list on job applications and resumes, but introduce youth to professionals and new aspects of their community.

Later this year, the club plans to go on more field trips, including a visit to a professional artist's studio downtown. In the photo featured here, teens took a field trip to the Ohio City Bike Co-op

to learn more about bikes AND hands-on career opportunities.

Club members have also received assistance with applications for the afterschool and summer Artworks internship program with Center for Arts-Inspired Learning and summer internships at the Cleveland Clinic.

At one meeting, West Park neighbor Shannon Dorvinen graciously shared her time as a guest speaker and explained the qualities of excellent customer service, which she provides at Cleveland Airport Marriott, and the career coaching she provides young people at Ohio Guidestone. Future meetings will engage youth in public speaking practice and planning for the Summer Job Jumpstart, West Park MyCom's annual youth employment training event.

The club is always accepting new members and is free thanks to Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation's lead for the MyCom youth development initiative. Learn more about the club and MyCom here: www.bpdc.org/youth-employment-training/ or by calling Vanessa at 671-2710 ext. 218.



John Marshall High School becomes community center three nights a week

By Ian Heisey

Some call it "6 to 8," others the "Night Program." The official name is "Schools As Neighborhood Resources" and whatever you call it, it means that West Park families can benefit from access to their brand new high school and free programs that go with it.

John Marshall is open from 6 to 8 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and offers a variety of programs for all ages now through the end of April. Participants of the program include senior citizens all the way down to younger elementary students.

Currently the menu of options that are offered every night include: basketball, arts and crafts, tutoring, line dance, and table tennis. Indoor soccer is offered on Wednesdays and there will be a free meal for ages 5-18 on all three nights.

The program is coordinated by Gary Galaszewski, a health and physical

education teacher at John Marshall who is also the swim team coach for John Marshall. He said the fact that the program has returned to John Marshall after several years at Artemus Ward has brought more space and the potential for more programs. Attendance has been very strong so far since the program opened on Nov. 4th.

"We're always looking to add more stuff, absolutely," Galaszewski said. We've got plenty of space if anybody wants to come and use it."

The program provides the space for free for neighborhood groups to hold meetings, or people could offer a poetry, martial arts, or an exercise class for example.

For more information about the schedule or to request space, email: Garygalaszewski@yahoo.com or call John Marshall and leave a message for him at 216-838-6000.

GALA cont...

third language is actually a gift in a diverse community, family, and world. She tried to pick up Mandarin in college at Case Western Reserve University and also while teaching in Taiwan, but realized that adults have a much harder time acquiring languages than children.

GALA is excited to welcome Jessica Gilway as Principal of GALA. Bilingual in Spanish, Jessica has had immersion experiences herself - living, teaching and learning in Ecuador and Bolivia. Jessica has served as a certified bilingual educator, as well as helped to launch a two-way dual language immersion program at a K-6 elementary school in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Most recently, she served three years as director of a charter school in Boone, North Carolina. Jessica recently returned to her hometown of Cleveland after graduating with her doctorate in Educational Leadership from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC.

I believe that dual language immersion is not only the best way for children to learn a language, but it is really the best way for children to learn about themselves, others, and the world around them. Becoming bilingual has opened many doors for me in my life and I am excited to help lead GALA as it works to provide the gift of becoming bilingual to children in Cleveland. Also, I am incredibly passionate about experiential education and love working with children as they discover what our global community has to offer them, Jessica shares.

Currently, Jessica is busy hiring an assistant principal, literacy coach, family support liaison, teachers, and staff for both the Mandarin and Spanish immersion programs, the job descriptions for which can be found at gala-prek8.org/opportunities/. In her free time, Jessica also enjoys spending time with her family doing outdoor activities, cooking, and African dancing, as well as makes art in the forms pottery, jewelry, and book binding.

GALA will follow an International

Baccalaureate (IB) framework, just like St. Edward High School and CMSD's Campus International K-8 downtown, the only CMSD school with a lottery so far. Therefore, GALA is in the early stages of this process in pursuing authorization as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. GALA will submit a candidacy application in April 2017 to receive authorization by August 2020. Although GALA will not be authorized until 2020, the school will implement the IB PYP from the start of our opening year.

For those unfamiliar with IB, it is a Swiss-based education program renowned for its academic rigor, international curriculum and high standards. IB schools develop intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills for students to live, learn, and work in a rapidly globalizing world. Currently, there are more than 3,718 IB schools in 147 countries.

Learn more about IB at: www.ibo.org and learn more about GALA at www.gala-prek8.org. Look for their community open houses early in 2016. The school can be contacted by emailing info@gala-prek8.org or calling 216-315-7942. You can also find them on Facebook or sign-up for their e-news on their website.

Student applications are now being accepted and forms are available on GALA's website.

Meran explains, "On our application, where it asks for program interest, a student can indicate interest in Mandarin only, Spanish only, or either. This filters applications for the lottery appropriately. In the case of an applicant choosing "either," their application will go into both the Mandarin immersion program lottery AND the Spanish immersion program. So...if the student wins in both lotteries, they would be asked to choose. If they choose Mandarin, then a space will open up in the Spanish program. We would then move to the next person in line for the open spot in the Spanish program."

Demand for West Park homes from serious out-of-town buyers

Right now is a great time to buy a home in West Park, since Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland (NHS) is administering the CityLIFT® program, which awards buyers with \$15,000 in down payment assistance. Tell your coworkers, friends, and family that chances are that they will find a house in good quality in West Park and that CityLIFT® can help them afford it more easily! Find out more about the \$15,000 on our housing page: www.bpdc.org/programs/housing/ or call Toni Jones, housing director at 671-2710 ext. 205.

NHS joins Wells Fargo Bank announcing a continued opportunity in affordable housing. Following the incredible success of the initial program that benefited 271 homeowners, the Cleveland

CityLIFT® program returns for a second round. The second round is targeted at providing 77 additional families with up to \$15,000 each in down payment assistance to those qualified towards purchasing homes in the City of Cleveland.

NHS's director, Lou Tisler provided us with data and analysis for West Park on the impact of CityLIFT® locally.

Twenty-two homes were bought with more than our fair share of CityLIFT® Round 1 downpayment assistance a year ago. Seventeen of CityLIFT® -related buyers in 44135.

For 44111 there were twenty-one homeowners new to Cleveland, coming from areas such as Berea, Chagrin Falls, North Olmsted, Sandusky, Seven Hills, Bay Village

and Rocky River. Seven already had an address in the 44111 zip code.

Out of \$3.7 million in capital, Ward 16 received 9% of this capital, and together with West Park's other complete ward, Ward 17, 29% of total downpayment assistance (DPA) was leveraged into a total of 72 single family homes.

These figures demonstrate that there is a strong desire of qualified homebuyers looking to buy in Cleveland, and specifically in West Park.

Homebuyer Education training is required for CityLIFT® participants, as well as a commitment to live in the home for at least 5 years to earn the equity provided by the CityLIFT®

Cont. on page 8...



The Family Matters in West Park is produced by Bellaire-Puritas Development Corp., a nonprofit serving West Park.

14703 Puritas Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44135
www.bpdc.org 216-671-2710

Board President, Jackie Kreiger
Executive Director, Bryan Gillooly
Editor, Rachel Napolitano

Summit cont...

- A new Urban Form Overlay is on Lorain and will help make businesses from W. 130th to W. 125th St become more pedestrian-friendly.
- BPDC received funding from GCRTA to install public art with salvaged stone from John Marshall on W. 140th St. and it will be installed after Lorain Avenue construction is finished
- Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) funded BPDC to install JMH-salvaged stone pillars and they were installed in December 2014 in Jefferson Park. In 2015 BPDC was awarded CAC funding to do another public art installation, this time in front of John Marshall school. Since the Summit CAC awarded BPDC more funds to install stone public art in Jefferson Park, complimentary to the pillars with perching owls.
- Senior housing is proposed for St. Vincent De Paul's property and funding is being pursued.
- The Lyric Community Center is in the final stages of fundraising. When completed, it will hold youth and adult programs for our community conveniently on W. 140th Street and Lyric Avenue.
- Other redevelopment projects like Puritas's Burger King and the old animal hospital on Puritas Ave., whose new medical business owner will hopefully provide 250 jobs for STNAs in 2017.

Vanessa Lange, youth program director at BPDC, shared a West Park youth development plan and that BPDC's

programs emphasize at least 1 of 5 different goals for students to achieve upon high school graduation:

- To be job and college ready after high school graduation.
- To be creative and able to express oneself.
- To enhance students in leadership and service learning.
- To improve computer literacy and scientific reasoning skills through increased STEM-learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) opportunities.
- To promote healthy lifestyles through increase of physical activity.

Additionally, Ms. Lange presented Hope Rivera, a 9th grader from John Marshall High School, who spoke about the importance of being in Teen Job Club and volunteerism. Lange also presented the Youth Champion Award to Ms. Chinetha Hall, Director of Hasani Management. Ms. Hall has developed a gardening tip classes for the youth at her house in summer.

Councilman Brian Kazy addressed the community and shared, "One of the things I enjoy is resident input and feedback and if you don't like the design, before I finalize it, I need to hear it from you." He finished by saying, "If you need anything call my office or my home number [251-2331]."

The discussion of a proposed merger of Kamms Corner and Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporations was presented by Trustees of BPDC

Cont. on page 8...

Celebración anual cont...

originales de esto colegio antes de la construcción del edificio nuevo.

- la construcción en la Avenida de Lorain, desde la calle 117 oeste hasta la calle 140 oeste es para que la gente ande por muchas maneras con más seguridad y placer.
- la nueva forma urbana de la cobertura en el código municipal (se llama Urban Form Overlay) en la Avenida Lorain es para realinear los negocios entre las calles 130 y 125 y también ser más peatonal.
- BPDC se ha recibido financiamiento de Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) para hacer otra instalación de arte en el Parque Jefferson que será instalado después de que la construcción en la Avenida Lorain este acabado y otra enfrente de los colegios de John Marshall. BPDC se ha recibido financiamiento por otra instalación de arte cerca de Wendy's en la Avenida Lorain. La primera instalación de financiamiento de CAC fue el año pasado y fueron dos búhos encima de pilares en el Parque Jefferson.
- la propuesta de viviendas para las personas de la tercera edad a la propiedad de la Iglesia Santo Vicente de Paúl.
- un centro de la comunidad está en sus etapas finales antes de rehabilitación. Este llevará a cabo programas para la juventud y los adultos de nuestra comunidad y estará al cuadro de la calle 140 oeste y la Avenida Lyric.
- otros proyectos de reurbanización como Burger King a la Avenida Puritas

en la comunidad de West Park deben proporcionar oportunidades para lograr el mínimo de 1 de 5 objetivos diferentes para los estudiantes después de graduarse de escuela secundaria:

- que los estudiantes estén listos para trabajar o ir a la universidad después de la graduación de la escuela secundaria. Tienen apoyo académico y existe el club de trabajo para los adolescentes. Este club se reúne todos los miércoles a 4:15 de la tarde en la escuela superior John Marshall y proporciona a las presentaciones de diferentes altavoces sobre futuras carreras.
- actividades de meta de expresiones, como el corriente apoyo de la Art House y América Scores para el arte, la danza y la poesía después de horas escolares.
- mejorar los estudiantes en el liderazgo y el servicio.
- para mejorar la alfabetización informática, conocimientos de ciencia y tecnología.
- para promover la salud estilo de vida a través del incremento de la actividad.

Además, la Srta. Lange presento a Hope Rivera, una estudiante de 9º grado de la escuela John Marshall, que habló sobre la importancia de ser parte del club de trabajo adolescente y hacer voluntariado; también, Lange presentó un premio de apreciación a la Sra. Chinetha Hall, director de Hasani Management. La Sra. Hall ha desarrollado unas clases de jardinería para la juventud en su casa en el verano.

Concejel Brian Kazy comunicó, "una de las cosas que disfruto es la retro comunicación y participación de los residentes y si no te gusta el diseño, antes de finalizar, necesito saberlo". Terminó su discurso, "Si usted necesita cualquier cosa puede llamar a mi oficina o mi número de casa [251-2331]."

La posibilidad de una unión de Kamms Corners y BPDC fue presentada por el Patronato del BPDC los cuales comunicaron que se trata de un cambio positivo en la comunidad de West Park. Chuck Nusbaum menciona, "si podemos mantenernos juntos podemos ser más fuertes juntos." Estas reuniones de los Partnoatos de las dos organizaciones se celebran mensualmente e incluyen temas

Cont. on page 8...

HOUSING FEEDBACK

I'm interested in:

- e-newsletter about housing
- rental opportunities
- buying a home in this neighborhood
- home repair fair
- taking a homebuyer classes
- volunteering as a Neighborhood Ambassador
- publicizing a story or person

Please contact me _____ about my interest(s) at:

Address _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Please return form to: 14703 Puritas Ave., Cleveland, OH 44135

y al lado, el hospital de animales es rehaciendo, y se estima que tendrá 250 puestos de trabajo para las personas con STNA en 2017. Luego, Vanessa Lange, director de la programa de desarrollo de jóvenes en el BPDC, explicó que todas las programas que existen

Jefferson Park



The Friends of Jefferson Park put on the 2nd Annual Winterfest on December 5th in Jefferson Park. It involved a ceremonial lighting of a tree and some caroling entertainment by Da'Jzhanae Smith (a student at John Marshall), Christmas caroling karaoke at an elf's station, spinning the dreidel, professional photos with Santa, raffle baskets, bakery and hot drinks, and craft stations.



Councilman Brian Kazy organized horse-drawn wagon rides, spooky but not too scary decorations, and community volunteers for the 1st Annual Haunted Hollow on October 30th. Costumed volunteers from neighborhood businesses and community groups supplied candy at different stations along the northern loop of Jefferson Park. Two Cleopatras, a masked marvel, and Olaf and Chinese Takeout participated at two crafting stations.

Marshall racks up trophies

John Marshall High School (JMH) celebrated its fourth Cleveland Metropolitan School District Senate League Girls' Tennis Championship this fall on their home turf, the courts at Jefferson Park. The boys' team competes in the spring, while the girls compete in the fall. Some students on the team only learned to play tennis this year, but they all got a chance to play in the city championship.

Senior Matondo Ngemba won her 3rd consecutive singles's championship. She was co-captain with fellow senior Bhawana Bhjewel. Coach Robert Deutsch told the Interpreter (the JMH student newspaper), "She is a team leader...Matondo is very vocal and very supportive of her teammates. She pushed herself and her teammates to do their best."

In reference to Coach Deutsch, she said, "He's the best coach ever. He basically taught me everything I know about tennis. My ninth grade year I played with the boys, and it was my first time holding a tennis racket. He guided me through the whole journey, how to be a player, some of the techniques you can use..."

She continues, "He doesn't give up

on you, encourages you to do what is best for you, not only as a coach, but as an adult in your life."

She is enrolled in the Ohio State University (OSU) Young Scholars program, so OSU will waive her tuition there if she maintains at least a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) in high school without C's or D's and obtains a 3.0 GPA or above in her college work.

"I want to go into neurosurgery... for a lot of reasons, things in my personal life."

"I've been reading a lot about it. I don't know, it's not a solid decision, but it sounds like something I would like to do," Matondo explained.

Matondo has also participated in the West Park Teen Job, where youth learn job search and employment skills, in addition to hear from career speakers and are encouraged to think about their career plans. (See page 6.)

Besides scholastics and reading about neurosurgery, she is currently playing basketball for the Lawyers and in the spring she plans on running track in the "400m, 4x400m maybe and I might try the mile or 800m."

Summit cont...

and they communicated that this is a positive change in the West Park community. Chuck Nusbaum mentioned, "if we can stay together, we can be stronger together." The joint boards are discussing service, staffing, finance, structures, operations, communications, identity and others.

Many awards were presented that evening. Chuck Nusbaum presented The Green Award on behalf of the Summit planning committee to Tom and Carolyn Simmonds for the Bountiful Basement Garden, and Melissa Miller presented the Ann Irizarry Business Leader Award to Greg Huber from the Cleveland Airport Marriott. Sharon Minter, a Summit planner, presented the West Parker Award to Bessie Fore. The Community Builder Award was given to the Cleveland Bombers, a youth athletic and mentoring program.

Celebración anual cont...

centrándose en servicio, personal, finanzas, estructuras, operaciones, comunicación, identidad y otros.

Chuck Nusbaum presentó el Green Award a Tom y Carolyn Simmonds por el jardín por la despensa de comida se llama Bountiful Basement. Mientras Melissa Miller presentó el Premio de Líder Empresarial Ana Irizarry a Greg Huber del Cleveland Airport Marriott. Sharon Minter entregó el Premio West Parker a Bessie Fore y el Community Builder Award fue dado a los Cleveland Bombers, una programa atlética y de tutorías.

West Park cont...

program, so this program should have a positive ripple effect on housing stability in West Park for years to come.

Tisler states, "This program supports our mission of achieving the dream of homeownership for families. What's innovative about this opportunity is combining quality homebuyer education, scarce financial resources, and a secure mortgage to stabilize neighborhoods."

School choices cont...

side, as well. Applicants should contact CTA directly. Danny Kelly at the FACE office can be reached at danny.kelly@clevelandmetroschools.org or 543-9049.

Parents can search for charter and public schools at www.clevelandta.org or call the United Way First Call for Help for free at 2-1-1. Now CTA launched a new, easy website just for researching tuition-free high schools at www.QualityHighSchoolsCLE.org.

Transportation is provided for some CMSD and charter schools, so neighborhood proximity is no longer a requirement to attend a particular school. "Open enrollment" is part of CMSD's "portfolio strategy", described by CMSD as "a commitment to providing high-

quality school choices across the city and giving schools greater autonomy over their curricula, staff and resources, based on their student's needs." The portfolio strategy has yielded more high-quality seats across the district and partnerships with select charter school operators.

The open enrollment process for CMSD begins January 25th. Parents can submit choices and learn how to choose and when to choose, by logging onto the Student Registration at www.choosecmsd.org or by calling 838-ENRL (3675). Additionally, January 25th-Jan. 27th, the CMSD High School Choice Fair is held at the CSU Wolstein Center.

Transfers are granted if space is available at the requested school and

grade level. Students who register after March 16th lottery for filled schools will be put on a waiting list.

Prekindergarten (PreK) (commonly known as preschool) registration starts Mar. 7th is the CMSD deadline for children who will be four years old by September 30, 2016. It must be done at the school of parent's choosing with all necessary paperwork (see below). Each school at CMSD is limited to at most 20 PreK students per school. Call 838-0110 for more information on PreK.

More parent reviews of any school are needed and CTA encourages everyone to submit a review at www.clevelandta.org/login.

Important Dates

Jan. 25th - CMSD open enrollment starts for K-12th schools

Jan. 25-27th - CMSD High School Choice Fair at CSU

Mar. 7th - CMSD PreK registration opens

March 16th - deadline to register before the lottery closes to avoid waiting lists

Things to bring to register students with CMSD

- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record (Baby Shots)
- Proof of Address
- Withdraw Form, Most Recent Report Card, or Transcript
- Guardian's State ID
- Guardianship/Custody Documents (if applicable)
- Record of a physical and dental exam for PreK students
- Proof of income (only some PreK's)
- Social Security cards (only some PreK's parents and child)

I WANT MORE YOUTH/FAMILY INFORMATION

My family is interested in receiving news about:

- youth programs (arts, leadership, job prep, college or career exploration etc.)
 neighborhood announcements

Name: _____

by e-newsletter at this email: _____

by mail at this address: _____

Please target information for youth with the birthdates of (mm/dd/yy)

_____/_____/_____, ____/____/____, ____/____/____, ____/____/____

Please return form to: 14703 Puritas Ave., Cleveland, OH 44135