Get Ready for Your First Job at the West Park Youth Job Jam

Young adults ages 14-20 are invited to this year’s West Park Youth Job Jam on Saturday, March 14th, 2020.

Save the Date! May 2nd is Run Puritas 2020

The 8th Annual Run Puritas 2020 will be hosted at the John Marshall High School athletic field (for the first time ever!) on Saturday, May 2nd. We’re kicking things off with the 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk at 8:30 a.m. followed by the 5k race at 9 a.m.

Folks from all skill levels are encouraged to take part in this day celebrating community health and wellness. We’re encouraging residents to team up with their neighbors, friends, family, places of worship, and coworkers to walk 1 mile or run the 5k! Both events welcome walkers and runners on their courses. (A 5K is five kilometers and is equal to 3.1 miles.) A few fun fitness activities will follow the race!

Registration is $25 per person, or groups of ten or more can register for only $10 per person! All proceeds will benefit Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation and its community programs. Strollers and leashed pets are welcome!

Register at www.peaceracing.com or contact Lindsay at 671-2710 for more information.

Himalayan Restaurant Grand Re-Opening!

Himalayan Restaurant (13124 Lorain Ave), one of West Park’s most unique and authentic restaurants, welcomed customers back with a grand re-opening on February 1st. Neighborhood residents were treated to a free lunch, courtesy of the new management. They kept the same chef, so loyal customers have been craving Nepali Momos are in luck. The same, high quality cuisine is available. A second Nepali chef has been brought on-board to add additional experience and creativity to the menu.

Himalayan Restaurant Grand Re-Opening continues on page 6

Neighborhood Senior Shows Aging in Place is Possible

Maryann Yenko has lived in her house on West 133rd Street for over 27 years and has been alone since her companion Harley passed away last March. Like many seniors, Yenko wants to remain in the neighborhood and age in place in her own home. She is happy in the neighborhood and feels safe here. She loves it when everyone says hello and waves to her in the summer as she sits on her porch.

Now that Yenko is by herself she says she gets lonely and does not have the support or help around her house that she used to. As a disabled senior it is very difficult for Yenko to get out of the house to go shopping or socialize. While she is aware of the transportation options available to her, she is lucky that several neighbors have stepped up and take her shopping and out to eat occasionally or bring her groceries. One of Yenko’s neighbors checks in on her weekly to make sure she is doing alright. Yenko believes it is important to have someone check in on you regularly.

Yenko has participated in the BPDC Senior Service Program for several years. She says, “the Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation is wonderful! I wouldn’t be able to stay here (in her house) if it weren’t for them. They cut my grass, remove my snow and salt, clean my gutters, and have repaired many things in my house. They also have helped with my HEAP and PIPP applications.”

Yenko is able to age in place in her home because of the outside services we are able to provide. She also has a great network of neighbor support, something many seniors feel they have in our community. With that kind of help Yenko should be able to enjoy her home, her porch, her neighborhood and her puzzles for many more years.
A word from Executive Director Bryan Gillooly

Social Infrastructure

I am reading a book by a professor of sociology at the New York University named Eric Klinenberg, and he is keen a new phrase, that represents an old idea: Social Infrastructure. His studies found the success of people that face economic challenges or disasters, depend on the presence of a strong social infrastructure in the neighborhood where they live.

I think a good strong social infrastructure is what helps our neighborhoods in West Park. People in this neighborhood are tough cookies. The residents here have been around the block more than once, and we hear they would often like to see it believe it. BPDC believes the greater the involvement that neighborhood people have in activities and discussions and actions that bring about neighborhood change, the stronger this neighborhood can be.

Klinenberg defines social infrastructures as both “the physical places and the organizations that shape our interactions” in the neighborhood (NBCNews, com, Think, Opinion 9.25.2018). To us this means involvement in BPDC and ward activities, the neighborhood associations, programs, youth programs and classes, trainings and activities of all kinds.

BPDC encourages everyone in this neighborhood respond to the 2020 Census, and to participate in the 2020 Elections. These are two things that need citizen participation to be successful, that only come around so often, and their success impacts this neighborhood’s life daily.

Welcome to the New BPDC Board Members!

In 2019 the BPDC Board of Directors made a concerted effort to increase its membership. According to our bylaws the BPDC board is made up of residents and representatives of local institutions (like hospitals, churches and schools) and area businesses. We were successful in increasing our numbers in two of those three categories. We are still interested in businesses willing to commit some time and effort to improving the neighborhood. Have ideas or recommendations? Please contact the Executive Director at the office (see info on this same page, or via email at bgillooly@bpdc.org, or using form at bpdc.org). We took this picture at the January Board Meeting.

Welcome Austin!

Austin Raymond is the new Healthy Homes Initiative’s Community Engagement Specialist for Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation. This new position was created by the City of Cleveland to help residents with housing issues. Through the program we hope to improve and brighten the neighborhood’s housing stock while connecting residents to resources.

The Healthy Homes Initiative utilizes a systematic approach. First, the exteriors of homes are inspected to make sure they are in compliance with the city code. Then, if violations are found, Austin will work with residents to find programs that will make their homes both safe and code compliant.

Austin will also be promoting the City’s newly revised Exterior Paint Program. This program allows qualified residents to receive a voucher for paint and supplies.

Austin previously worked in the city of Lorain doing housing code enforcement inspections and as a pipeliner for his family’s company doing primarily commercial plumbing work. He is excited to be at BPDC where he can use his housing inspection skills, while also assisting residents who need help making those improvements.

If you see Austin out and about in the neighborhood, please do not hesitate to say hello and let him know of any concerns you have about housing in the neighborhood or ask him any questions you might have. He is here to help residents improve their homes and the neighborhood. Welcome Austin!

A word from Ward 16 Councilman Brian Kazy

Dear Ward 16 Residents–

Greetings from City Hall! I hope you all enjoyed this past holiday season and as we have officially rung in a new decade, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all not only a Happy New Year but also a prosperous decade. 2020 will bring a lot of excitement to Ward 16 as we have plenty of events planned for this upcoming spring, fall and summer. June will be filled with cook-outs as we are once again planning our outings in both McGowan and Terminal Parks.

Monday at McGowan and Tuesday at Terminal will be opportunities to bring a side dish, enjoy the complimentary burgers and dogs and get to know your neighbors.

July will be musically filled as we will once again be hosting ‘Jefferson Rocks West Park’ at Jefferson Park. We have an exciting line up scheduled as we have music from the 70’s, 80’s, 90’s, Classic Rock and Country that will be playing live. Come out and enjoy our opening acts, the beer garden and food will be available. If you have never been to one of our concerts, you won’t be disappointed when you do. August and September will provide plenty of opportunities to engage as we will be having our Safety and Service Walks, Coffee with a Councilman and Cop and other events. October 30th will be the annual Haunted Hallow which is usually the biggest event in the ward every year. Look for more information throughout the year on all the events as the dates draw closer.

I look forward to seeing everyone around the neighborhood throughout this upcoming year and engaging with you all. As usual, should you need anything please do not hesitate to give me a call at the office 216-664-2942, home 216-251-2331 or visit the Ward 16 website at www.clevelandward16.com.

Thank You – Your Councilman

Brian Kazy

Everyone should vote. Every vote matters. The primary is the same day as St. Patrick’s Day, and before that there are plenty of opportunities to vote “early”. Every vote matters and BPDC will provide information on our web page about registration deadlines, new polling locations and how to get help with transportation to go cast your vote.

Participation in the Census means looking out for census information in your mailbox, and learning how to use the internet to respond on-line about your household. Notices go out around March 12th. The ‘count’ is in April. You should respond on-line, following the US Census instructions. Those that did not respond on-line the census will be sent forms and people to help you complete your responsibility. More information about the census process is our web page (bpdc.org) but especially I want to point out that all sorts of planning and program and infrastructure funds for the neighborhood result from the population counts taken by the US Census. For every person that is not counted, a neighborhood could lose $1.812 per year, every year until the next census. That is amounts to $18,000 over 10 years! It is worth it for everyone in our neighborhood to be counted in the US Census.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Visit www.bpdc.org to sign up for our e-newsletters.
West Park Welcomes New Executive Chef at The Hub!

As soon as we learned a new chef started at The Hub we arranged to speak with her.

Latoya Brady, a native of Warren Ohio, took a roundabout route to becoming an executive chef. After a short career in banking, she discovered she didn’t feel fulfilled in that work and decided to pursue her first passion—cooking.

Latoya enrolled in culinary school in 2007 and hasn’t looked back since. She found her first year of culinary school relatively easy, displaying a natural gift for the precise and artistic aspects of the job. However, upon beginning courses on breakfast cookery, Latoya stated that she quickly found herself humbled – she explained that the nuance of timing, temperature, and patience required to perfectly cook items such as eggs and breakfast meats taught her just how much attention to detail high-quality culinary work requires. In addition to mastering the art of a perfectly-cooked egg, Latoya also specializes in meats and building sauces, taking great pride in delivering an expertly-prepared prime rib or filet out.

After completing culinary school, Latoya worked at multiple restaurants over the next ten years, including a stint at a brewery where she added the use of fresh-brewed beer in her recipes to her repertoire. Her last job, prior to starting at The Hub, was as a sous chef at the Jack Casino in downtown Cleveland.

Several times in our conversation, Chef Brady emphasized the importance of teamwork as central to her philosophy of how to run a kitchen and a restaurant. Her plan, as Executive Chef, is to build up a disciplined, focused crew, with a strong, supportive, team atmosphere.

In addition to overseeing The Hub Bar & Grill, Latoya is responsible for the banquet menu where she enjoys allowing her creativity to flourish. Ask about Latoya’s vegan stuffed peppers with red quinoa, shitake and portabella mushrooms, tomato sauce, and micro basil!

FREE HOME REPAIR CLASSES: The Home Repair Resource Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower residents with knowledge and skills to maintain the challenge of keeping up older homes. This past summer, Councilman Brian Kazy sponsored three free classes at the BPDC office for our residents to participate with hands on training and experience in repairing masonry steps, laying ceramic tile, and preparing your home for winter. Our neighborhood is fortunate to have HRRC classes once again this Summer! Please call the BPDC office if you are interested in attending. We want to tailor these classes to meet your needs, so call us with your suggestions for what you want to learn regarding home repair, interior or exterior. More information will be available in our next newsletter. There is no charge for these classes if you live in Ward 16.

Neighbor’s Bar & Grill Coming Soon!

New Name, Same Familiar Place

Slim & Chunky’s, a popular neighborhood pub in Marc’s Plaza at Puritas Ave & W 150th St is under new ownership.

Frank Edmonds, a local entrepreneur, became the owner of Slim & Chubby’s last year. He is working to rebrand the business as ‘Neighbor’s Bar & Grill’. The pub will keep the same bar, staff, and, most importantly, the same Happy Hour prices.

We had a chance to speak with Mr. Edmonds, and he explained that he wanted to change the name to ‘Neighbor’s Bar and Grill’ to highlight its neighborhood feel and the first name basis relationships they strive for between staff and patrons. He added that Neighbors has over 15 flat-screen TV’s, a full-kitchen that offers American style food and daily specials, and a comprehensive beer selection. He told us he plans to focus on amazing drinks, high-quality food, and superior customer service.

Keep your eyes open for the new signs, and stop in to say hello!

Address: 15025 Puritas Ave, Cleveland, OH 44135
Hours: 11 am to 2:30 am 7 days a week
Happy Hour runs until 7:00 pm and includes drink specials and half-price appetizers.
Phone Number: 216-671-7167
New website coming soon at neighborsbargrill.com.

The HEAP 24 hour-appointment number is 216-350-8008.
To make an appointment online, go to www.chi.itfrontdesk.com.
Cleveland is an Age-Friendly City

Happy Spring! As the Director of Aging for the City of Cleveland, I am delighted that this issue of the BFPC Community Post is focusing on services to older adults.

Did you know that almost 18% of Cleveland’s population is made up of individuals 60 years of age and older? About 70,000 older adults call Cleveland home. The Cleveland Department of Aging provides a wide range of services to individuals 60 and older as well as individuals who are 18-59 years with a disability. Our Department is committed to ensuring Cleveland is an age-friendly community by enhancing the quality of life for Cleveland seniors and adults with disabilities through advocacy, planning, and coordination and delivery of services. Examples include home repair, benefits assistance, chore services, transportation and much more.

I invite you to contact the Department of Aging for more information. You can call us at 216-664-2833, visit us at 75 Erievie Plaza, Cleveland OH 44114, learn more online at www.city.cleveland.oh.us/aging or email us at aging@city.cleveland.oh.us. In addition, you can find us on the first Tuesday of every month at Gunning Resource and Recreation Center at 16700 Puritas Ave. Staff from our Department set up a table of resources and are available to answer questions from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

No one city department, non-profit agency, health system or faith-based community provides everything an older adult may want or need to age successfully. Because of this, we work every day with other organizations that provide services to older adults. This “Aging Network” includes health care organizations, senior centers, senior apartment buildings, home-delivered meal programs, and home care services.

Navigating this network of services can be challenging and we are here to help and to make Cleveland an age-friendly city.

In March, all residents will begin to receive information about the 2020 Census. It is very important that every older adult in Cleveland is counted as census data is used to make funding decisions for programs such as Medicare Part B, affordable housing, and Medicaid. These programs are vital to the health of older adults.

Lastly, I want to personally invite you to the 31st Annual Cleveland Senior Day on May 27th. This annual event is held at Public Hall and includes entertainment by seniors, a resource fair, lunch and a program honoring 17 special seniors, one from each ward. This year’s theme is Make Your Mark and celebrates the countless contributions that older adults make to our city. I look forward to seeing you there.

Get connected to great activities at the Rose Center for Aging Well!

By Ashley Langford
Center Director, Rose Centers for Aging Well

Are you 60 years of age or older and looking to get out of the house and engage with peers in the community? Please join us at The Rose Center for Aging Well, located in the back of the Gunning Park Recreation Center.

A hot lunch is served every day at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are required for the lunch program. Please call us at 216-373-1726 to inquire about the lunch program. Interested participants can sign up for our monthly outings, which typically include a shopping trip, restaurant visit, or a cultural experience. A few of our favorite trips include: The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Little Italy, or a trip to a local casino! Become a part of the fun! Please stop by during business hours to grab a newsletter, join us to try an activity or class, and get any questions that you may have answered. We hope to see you soon!

What is Senior Transportation Connection?

Senior Transportation Connection provides coordinated, affordable transportation for seniors and adults with disabilities throughout Cuyahoga County.

The goal is to keep seniors/disabled adults connected to medical care, senior centers, grocery shopping, and community activities.

Senior Transportation Connection has accessible vehicles with ramps or lifts for easy entry and door-to-door assistance from trained drivers. If you need someone to help, your personal care aide can accompany you.

Communities and agencies cover a large portion of the cost of the trip, working together to keep costs affordable and the fees you pay manageable.

The Service is available weekdays. Your community defines where we travel, how far you can travel, how many passengers you can carry, and what hours of service you receive. Senior Transportation Connection will confirm all this information when you schedule your ride.

First time users must complete a pre-registration. All trips must be scheduled at least two business days prior and may be scheduled up to three weeks in advance. You will need to know your destination address, phone number, suite or room number, time of appointment and time of return.

The hours of operation are from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday.

Senior Transportation Connection is closed on most major holidays. If the holiday falls on a Saturday it will be observed on the preceding Friday. If the holiday falls on a Sunday, it is observed the following Monday. To schedule a ride or complete registration, please call 216-265-1489.

Drivers Needed!

Senior Transportation Connection also has frequent part-time openings for drivers. Daytime shifts in Cuyahoga County do not require a CDL. Duties include vehicle safety-checks, following assigned routes and delivering exceptional customer service to older adults. Must have a clean driving record, criminal background checks and drug screen.

Call 216-265-1489, or visit STC in person between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Located at 4735 W. 150 St. Suite A, in Cleveland (north of Brookpark Rd.)

April is National Social Work Month! This year’s theme is Make Your Mark and celebrates the countless contributions that older adults make to our city. I look forward to seeing you there.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Visit www.bfpc.org to sign up for our e-newsletters.
Motivated Senior Gives Back to the Community

Lillian Prijatel knows you can’t help everyone but she seeks to make a difference in the life of one child at a time. As a 22-year resident of Fairlawn Avenue, the retired property manager tutors twice a week through the Reach Success program at Gunning Recreation Center for students in grades K-12 and offers them attention, love and encouragement.

“It’s a great feeling to walk into a room and you get a smile, a wave and will you help me?”, she said. Prijatel first heard an announcement about a PPG to Puritas Neighborhood Association meeting about an opportunity to tutor children and was motivated to help. She said many of the students have parents who struggle with English, and are low-income and in need of support. “I feel it would be selfish of me not to volunteer. I am retired and have the time and ability to do my part,” she said. “Being part of the tutoring program is very rewarding and challenging.”

According to William Horning, President of Reach Success, Inc., Lillian truly has a desire to give back and help others realize a better future, and she instills a sense of nurturing at the program. Horning said he has seen an increase in the proficiency of students she works with.

Due to tutors with a heart like Lillian’s, we have an amazing retention ratio, bringing 30+ kids back every Tuesday and Thursday.”

Giving back to the community comes as second nature to Prijatel. She also volunteers at Laura’s Home, a local shelter for women and their children, and is a leader with the PPG to Puritas Neighborhood Association which meets once a month at BPDC.

At a West Park Neighbor Up meeting last year she heard a request for volunteers to do mock interviews with teens at the Youth Job Jam, an annual event organized by Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation in partnership with Youth Opportunities Unlimited, and she signed up.

Prijatel feels strongly that you can’t give what you don’t have inside of you. “No one is born knowing life’s lessons...we all have to learn!” she said. “Don’t die with the music still inside you.”

West Park Job Jam

continued from page 1

BPDC Helps Seniors Age in Place

The senior population in the United States is growing rapidly. By 2030 there will be 71.5 million people over the age of 65 living in the U.S., roughly 20% of the population. This is twice the number of seniors that were living in the U.S. in 2000.

The Bellaire-Puritas neighborhood’s senior population is mirroring this trend. Today Ward 16, BPDC’s community development service area, has 3,334 seniors, or 14.2% of its total population. This is a 3% increase over 2010.

Many seniors today are choosing to stay in their homes as they age. The aging in place concept focuses on helping seniors live in the residence of their choice as they age by getting them the help they need in order to live in that space while still maintaining a good quality of life. Some things seniors need to help them age in place include transportation, health maintenance, social interactions, meals, assistance with household chores, getting around the home safely, and assistance with home maintenance.

BPDC knows that many of our seniors want to grow old in their own homes and in the neighborhood they have called home for years. We have also seen more seniors live alone as their family has chosen to move out of the neighborhood, either to the suburbs or out of state. No longer are the days when your family all lives within several blocks of each other and you could easily help your parents with household chores.

So what happens to the seniors who want to age in place when there is no longer someone close by to help with grass cutting, snow shoveling or gutter cleaning? This is where BPDC’s Senior Services Program can help. We offer many services through our program for neighborhood seniors who income qualify. Each summer we have a crew that assists seniors with lawn mowing and in the winter we assist with snow shoveling. In addition we help with other minor home repair and maintenance needs. For example, we have unlogged drains, cleaned gutters, put-up railings inside and outside the house, changed batteries and light bulbs, installed smoke detectors, moved furniture, removed debris from inside and outside, repaired locks, installed grab bars in the bathroom, trimmed low hanging trees, and hedged bushes. Last year we helped 145 different seniors with 936 different services. If we can’t help with something, or can’t do the repair ourselves, we direct seniors to other programs or contractors to get assistance.

If you are a senior or a disabled resident needing help with everyday living, please call Judy at our office at 216-671-2710 ext. 221. We will provide you with more information about our program and mail you an application.

During the morning portion of the event, all participants will practice their interview skills with community volunteers and learn how to make the best possible impression on potential employers. In the afternoon, youth ages 14-15 will practice speaking with employers and sign up for summer activities and volunteer opportunities. Participants ages 16-20 should come dressed to impress with copies of their resume, ready to talk with employers, submit applications, and potentially land a job!

The West Park Youth Job Jam is co-sponsored by Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.), a nonprofit workforce development organization based in Cleveland, Ohio that serves teens and young adults ages 14-24. Y.O.U.’s Summer Youth Employment Program is open to youth ages 14-18 and provides a 6-week paid work experience over the summer. Eligible youth can apply online at youthopportunities.org. Y.O.U. will be on-site at the Youth Job Jam for youth to register or to answer any questions about the program.

The Youth Job Jam takes place at Gunning Recreation Center, 16700 Puritas Ave. Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m. and the event goes from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch is provided.

To register, contact Vanessa Lange at v.lange@bpdc.org or 216-671-2710 with your name, age, school, phone number and email address.

The event is also in need of adult volunteers to help with mock interviews in the morning, and new employers are always welcome to participate in the job fair. Also contact Vanessa if you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer or employer.

Motivated Senior Gives Back to the Community

Lillian Prijatel tutors at Reach Success
**MyCom Mini-Grants Fund Youth Programming Throughout Neighborhood**

The West Park MyCom initiative is wrapping up its first year of a mini-grant program providing additional support to neighborhood-based programs for K-12 youth. A total of $13,000 has been awarded to support 14 different projects. Check out this year’s mini-grant award recipients below. To learn how your organization may qualify for MyCom support, contact Vanessa Lange at (216) 671-2710 or v.lange@bpdc.org.

- **Riverside School and Impact Youth** – Evening basketball skills and character training for 3rd-8th grade
- **John Marshall High School Athletics and Impact Youth** – Saturday basketball skills training for 5th-12th grade
- **West Preparatory Academy** – School-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, including youth-friendly space with games and comfortable furniture, and school t-shirts
- **John Marshall High School Cheerleading Team** – training mats for tumbling instruction, in partnership with Officer Kerry Adams of the Cleveland Police Department Community Engagement Unit, who is providing tumbling coaching to the team
- **CMHA Riverside Park After-School Program** – LitArt after-school curriculum using award winning books to build reading fluency and positive engagement with books
- **Impact Youth at Riverside School**
- **Refugee Response Teen Response Program – transportation for career exposure field trips for refugee students at John Marshall High School**
- **Cleveland Bombers Sports and Mentoring – Lodging for team trip to Naples Florida to compete in a national championship**
- **John Marshall Civic and Business Leadership – Transportation for 13 seniors to attend weekly classes at Soulcraft to learn woodworking as part of their senior internship requirement**
- **John Marshall IT and Art House, Inc. – Artist residency exploring environmental stewardship in collaboration with Cleveland Metroparks Zoo**
- **Rockport Library Teen Tech Center – Classes with Design Exploror at Rockport Library to expose youth to design careers and the design thinking process**
- **America SCORES Cleveland – Spring festival for families from SCORES’ West Park Schools, R.G. Jones, Artemus Ward and Newton D. Baker.**
- **Robinson G. Jones – Need-based scholarships for 8th grade students attending the annual camping trip to the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center**
- **Hasani Management, Inc. – Christmas Gifts from LoLo annual event providing gifts and a home-cooked meal for local families**
- **Diamonds in the Rough – Support for field trips to City Hall to meet with Mayor Jackson, and an overnight retreat**

**Himalayan Grand Re-Opening!**

continued from page 1

vegan, vegetarian, and meat-based options. Nepali cuisine is based on the flavors of cumin, garlic, onion, turmeric, ginger, and chili peppers.

One of the most popular Nepali dishes is the Momos. Momos are a type of steamed dumpling with a filling of seasoned vegetables or meat. They are typically served with a gravy or dipping sauce, usually, with a tomato base.

Momos are wonderful as both a snack and as a healthy, filling meal. These are highly recommended as your first sample of Nepali food.

Himalayan Restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and for dinner from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. It is closed on Mondays.

Himalayan Restaurant is located at 13124 Lorain Ave.

— PLEASE NOTE —

Polling locations have changed for many people for the Primary on March 17th! MAKE SURE YOU CHECK FOR WHERE TO VOTE! An updated polling location map for Ward 16 is available by going to the BPDC website at: www.bpdc.org.

You can also check the Board of Elections website at https://boe.cuyahogacounty.us/

! NEIGHBORHOOD TRIVIA!

Can you guess where this restaurant once was in the neighborhood?

Courtesy of the West Park Historical Society, we are sharing this 1961 photo of a location in Ward 16.

Think you know what stands there now? Go to our website at www.bpdc.org to find out the answer!

**Registration underway for Tri-League!**

Tri-League Little League is now the only league in Cleveland to be affiliated with Little League International in Williamsport, PA. Our youth in Cleveland now for the first time have the opportunity to play in the Little League World Series live on ESPN!

Registrations are underway now on our website www.trileaguelittleleague.org.

In person registrations begin on February 1st and end at the end of March. Registration happens Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at the office located at 4462 West 130th Street. Call 216-476-8456 for more information.

**Get help with your taxes for free!**

See if you qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit, EITC. Learn more and find out the nearest site to you at: www.refundohio.org

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Visit www.bpdc.org to sign up for our e-newsletters.
Neighborhood Associations Connect and Strengthen Our Community

Our neighborhood associations have been working hard to connect with neighbors, address local issues, and bring about positive engaging events to their streets.

PPG to Puritas is a group of neighbors living between W. 140th to W. 150th from Lorain to Puritas Ave. They are looking forward to their 2nd Annual Yard and Craft Sale on June 13th at Blessed Trinity Church. After a successful first year with over 40 vendors, they realized what a great opportunity it is to bring residents together and shop for new little treasures. PPG to Puritas also would like to spend more time focusing on ways to beautify the neighborhood.

Glen gar Community Association focuses on quality of life issues and they have hosted guest speakers including from Cleveland Housing Court and they also received a mini-grant to do a neighborhood survey to learn what their neighbors care about.

Please note: PPG to Puritas and Glengar have decided to merge and meet together on the first Wednesday of the month at BPDC. A new name will be decided for the group. The area for this merged group covers residents living south of Puritas north to Lorain Avenue, from W. 140th to W. 150th Street.

Congratulations on a successful Fall festival and Donuts with Santa to the W. 130th Street Block Watch. Both events were family friendly and packed with several crafts, games, and special performances by the West Park Academy Dance Crew. They received an outpouring of donations from local businesses including Metro PCS who donated 40 cell phones to local families! The group also focuses on safety. The group covers the area “between the bridges” along W. 130th Street south of Bellaire Road and meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Slone Funeral Home, 13115 Lorain Avenue.

West Park Neighbor Night is a great group of community-minded residents and leaders in the business community (mostly from Wards 16 and 17) who are all about focusing on assets of neighbors and the community as well as creative solutions! The meetings are geared towards planning and taking action on projects they feel passionate about. Group meets at West Park United Church of Christ, 3909 Rocky River Drive, on the 2nd Wednesday of month at 6:30 p.m.

The Neighborhood Education Committee meets normally on the first Monday of the month at BPDC at 6:30 p.m. and works to build a bridge between the schools and the community to strengthen both.

If you live north of Lorain Avenue between W. 130th Street and W. 117th Street, please contact us if you would like to learn more about future meetings in your area.

Contact Lindsay at 216-671-2710 or l.wheeler@bpdc.org to learn more about any of these groups, future meetings, or forming one in your area!

EVENTS CALENDAR

SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH
Teen Job Jam
Bellaire Puritas will be holding our annual youth job readiness workshops and job fair at Gunning Recreation Center on Saturday March 14th, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Teens can participate in mock interviews and meet local employers and apply for summer jobs.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH
Yoga for Everyone at SNR
As part of the “Walk to Wellness—West Park” community health initiative, we will be hosting Yoga at Artemus Ward School during the Schools as Neighborhood Resources (SNR) program. Yoga will go from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call 216-671-2710 for more information.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH
Community Walk
As part of the “Walk to Wellness—West Park” BPDC will be hosting a group walk through the neighborhood from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Jennifer Neill, CNP in Cardiology from Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital will speak briefly. Check our website for updated details or call Lindsay Wheeler at 216-671-2710 for more information.

SATURDAY, MAY 2ND
Run Puritas
Join us for our 8th Run Puritas 5k run and 1 mile walk! We welcome folks from all fitness backgrounds to join in this day celebrating community health! The event is a benefit for the John Marshall athletic field. Race day is May 2nd at 8:30 a.m. Register online at https://runsignup.com/runpuritas. Call 216-671-2710 for more information.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH
22nd Annual Big Creek Clean Up
Join friends and neighbors as we clean up the Big Creek! 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Brookfield Park (Between Bellaire and W. 130th St.) Refreshments provided.

For more information, contact Lindsay at 671-2710

Ongoing activities:

1st Tuesday, 6-8 p.m. W. 130th Block Watch Meeting at West Park Academy, 12913 Bennington Ave.
1st Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Glengar & PPG to Puritas Neighborhood Associations combined meeting at Bellaire Puritas Development Offices, 14703 Puritas Ave.
1st Thursday, 7-8 p.m. First District Police Community Relations Committee at St. Ignatius of Antioch, 10205 Lorain Ave.
1st Friday, 12-2 p.m. Free produce give-away at West Park Baptist Church, 4600 W. 150th
1st Wednesday, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Free produce give-away at the Bountiful Basement from Bring I.D., 4370 W. 140th
1st Thursday, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Office Hours in the neighborhood with Councilman Kazy, at Rockport Library
3rd Thursday, 7-8 p.m. Jefferson Park Concerned Citizens at Slone & Co Funeral Directors 13115 Lorain Ave
3rd Thursday, 6-7 p.m. West Park MyCom Youth Development Network Meetings, 14703 Puritas Ave
3rd Thursday, St. Paul AME Food Distribution 5-7 p.m. & 3rd Friday 12-2 p.m. & 3-5 p.m. at 4118 Brookside Blvd

Neighborhood Education Committee- Call for meeting schedule (216) 671-2710

Volunteers are always welcome at our community events! Please let us know if you are interested by calling 216-671-2710x216.

For more neighborhood events, please see our Events Calendar at bpdc.org
There will be great music at Jefferson Park again this summer (beer garden too!) so spread the word and invite a friend!

All concerts start with an opening band at 6:30 p.m. with the headliner on at 8 p.m.

- **July 8th**: Billy Morris and the Sunset Strip (rock)
- **July 15th**: Carlos Jones (reggae)
- **July 22nd**: FM77 (classic rock covers from the 70s)
- **July 29th**: Sugar Creek (country)

**West Park Youth Job Jam**

**Saturday, March 14th, 2020**

**Check-in**: 9:30am, **Event**: 10:00-2:00pm

Gunning Rec Center, 16700 Puritas Ave

For young adults ages 14-20

- All participants: Mock interviews, job readiness workshop, lunch, community service opportunities
- 14-15 year olds: Sign up for summer activities and volunteer opportunities, practice speaking with employers
- 16-20 year olds: Meet local employers with real job openings!

**To Register:**
- Email v.lange@bpdc.org
- Call 216-671-2710
- Include your name, age, school and contact info

**SAVE THE DATE - MAY 2**

We look forward to your participation in Run Puritas 2020, our 8th Annual Run/Walk fundraiser for BPDC

**BPDC game night is coming! Join us for our 1st ever game night fundraiser. Dinner, drinks, side boards and everyone gets a chance to win the big board by purchasing an event ticket. 21 and over only. Stay tuned for more details! Sign up for more info at www.bpdc.org**