Challenge West Park!

This summer we will be premiering a community wide game made of a combination of social media challenges, scavenger hunts and races. Teams of up to four will compete against friends, family and neighbors through a series of challenges of varying degrees of difficulty. Those who successfully complete and submit the challenge entries through the provided digital channels will be scored by a team put together by BPDC.

The fun kicks off on Monday, July 20th! The challenges will test your knowledge of the neighborhood, your sharpness of mind and body, and your will to take home the winning “trophy.” Participants will be able to check online for newly posted challenges each week as well as complete old challenges for half of the points. We invite community members of all ages, local companies, schools, and places of worship to choose their teams, register, and prepare for some good competitive fun! Extra points if you have several generations on your team!

This game is designed to follow the safety protocols and social distancing policies encouraged by the state health department. Most of the game

Challenge West Park continues on page 9

Shop Smart! Shop Safe! Shop Small!

Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation is rolling out a program to recognize businesses that are going the extra mile to keep their customers safe. Be on the lookout for Shop Safe signs. These signs will let you know that the merchant you are patronizing is observing the best practices recommended by the Ohio Department of Health to contain the spread of COVID-19. The idea was developed by John Wynn who, along with Paul Vasko, the owner of Vinny’s Beverage, have been taking extra precautions to keep their customers at the beverage store and laundromat safe since the pandemic began.

Bellaire-Puritas has always advocated for shopping local as a means of supporting a vibrant neighborhood. During the current crisis, we have observed that many of our independent retailers display greater nimbleness, creativity, and responsiveness to customer safety than big, corporate stores. It seems that Shopping Local can also be a way of Shopping Safe, which we would say counts as Shopping Smart.

What does Shopping Smart look like in practice? Consider the example set by Vinny’s Beverage (13531 Lorain), Torch Hardware (13510 Lorain), and Ward 16 Plaza (W. 136 TH & LO RAIN AVE.)

Every store is different, and the details of their approach to keeping customers safe varies. However, there are certain public health best practices that are observed by all conscientious retailers:

- Employees wear protective masks and regularly wash their hands. The stores are regularly

Two New Say Yes Cleveland Schools in West Park

Say Yes Cleveland recently announced the 26 CMSD schools that will receive Say Yes support services in the 2020-2021 school year. Among those schools are two new additions in the West Park Neighborhood: James A. Garfield K-8 School and New Tech West High School.

Principal Jacob Bosley of Garfield shared that the Garfield staff are “incredibly grateful for becoming a Say Yes school this upcoming school year. We look forward to having a full-time family support specialist on campus and offering an after school program dedicated to providing our students with extra-curriculars centered around academics and sports.”

Principal Bosley also pointed to a few additional changes the school is excited about for the coming year. Advanced 8th grade students will now have the opportunity to take two high school level courses, Algebra I and English I. They are also

Der Braumeister’s Resilience Shines During Troubling Times

Sometimes, it can take an unprecedented crisis of the proportions of COVID-19 to remind us of how strong and resilient West Park is as a community. On the afternoon of Sunday, March 15th, Jenn Wirtz, owner of Der Braumeister, was wrapping up brunch service and texting with her marketing consultant when news broke that Governor DeWine was issuing emergency, public health orders that would, effectively, close down restaurants and bars for at least a month, and likely longer.

Der Brau had been gearing up for Saint Patrick’s Day, working on the restaurant’s patio and brunch menu, and getting ready for a busy spring and summer. Like many independent restaurants, Der Brau experienced an enormous disruption due to the pandemic. However, as Ms. Wirtz would soon show, small business people are nimble and resourceful. Der Brau demonstrated that, with creativity and an incredible amount of hard work,
A word from Executive Director Bryan Gillooly

Justice: What Love Looks Like in Public

Since our last newsletter, a global pandemic began, and awareness about U.S. racial inequality and inequity has heightened nationally, and solidarity with plight of black and brown Americans is being felt and expressed around the world.

Many organizations are making their statements about both COVID-19 and its stand against racism. While BPDC has its values in place that honor and promote the safety, dignity and respect for all residents, businesses and other stakeholders who live and work and play in our neighborhoods of West Park, making only statements at this time seems inadequate.

It is my hope, as the director of an organization that promotes equality, dialogue, participation, education, improvement and service to and with your neighbor, in your neighborhood, that our actions do indeed make a statement.

It is widely understood that concern for your neighbor can take many forms. A philosopher, activist, author and scholar, Dr. Cornel West once asked people to “Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public.” This idea resonates with me. It is akin to the Catholic Social Teaching notion that the two feet of love, when put in action are 1) works of charity and 2) social justice actions. Although I am less familiar, it seems many religions have similar values like Tawalla (Islam) and Tzedaka and Mitzvah (Judaism). My point is that many people that teach, in their own ways, how we should live in harmony with our community believe in both service and social change.

Doing good in our community can include both direct help that serves one neighbor at a time, as well as reform and systemic or societal change that helps our community realize its dream of justice for all. At BPDC we expect this community to be a place for our neighbor to live safely, with dignity and respect, every bit as much as we expect it to be that for our own households.

While it was planned many months ago, it is very appropriate that this issue of the Community Post features neighborhood engagement activities. At this time when our public life is more isolated than many of us have ever experienced in our lifetime, out of concern for spreading the novel COVID-19 coronaviruses, it is important to bring people together safely and work side by side to serve and include people that need it. We are honored to facilitate coordination between the pantries in our neighborhood and attract donations and grants to help the increasing number of people they serve in need of food and cleaning supplies. Thanks to you and anyone who donated time or money to support the Community Essential Needs Collective that funnels support to pantries and people here in the neighborhood.

Similarly, we are glad to be an active part of neighborhood associations at this time when inequality and inequity are being discussed and addressed at many levels. BPDC’s role is also to bring people together safely and work side by side to serve and include people that need it.

BPDC has its statements around COVID-19 safety and also opposing racism and they can be found at bpdc.org. As a recipient of this newsletter, you are a part of this community we serve, so I truly hope our and your vocal and charitable acts will be expressions of love for your neighbor amid turbulent times.

A word from Ward 16 Councilman Brian Kazy

Greetings from City Hall –

I hope that you are enjoying the beginning of what I anticipate will be a very enjoyable summer. I am not sure how the rest of the summer, fall and into the winter months is going to play out. However, as I have been saying for some time now I am asking for diligence when it comes to being safe here in Ward 16 and throughout our daily lives. COVID 19 has not gone away and I am begging that everyone please take the necessary precautions to keep yourself, your family and others safe and COVID free.

The world and our City is also dealing with the civil unrest that has been brought about by over 400 years of racial inequality only to be brought to the forefront once again with the senseless killing of George Floyd. I witnessed two different perspectives with the protests that have occurred in the City over the last couple of weeks. I witnessed the destruction of our Downtown and I was able to witness first hand a peaceful protest that occurred on West 130th St. in front of the 1st District Police station. I am an advocate of change for any injustice! I support those who invoke their constitutional right to protest as long as it is done in a peaceful, orderly way. I will stand with anybody who is passionate about any topic to change anything.

Change is not an easy thing however we must all embrace differences and keep open minds of others whose difference of opinions are not like ours. I am also a supporter of our men and women in blue who protect our daily lives and keep the streets safe for all of us. I am not naive to the fact that there is some bad in all walks of life, however The Osmunds remind us in their number 1 hit released on November 14, 1970 that “One Bad Apple” don’t spoil a whole bunch….. I am calling on all to have a safe and fun summer, all the while keeping an open mind on what is occurring in the world today. I am always here for you and should you ever need anything, as usual please do not hesitate to reach out!

Brian Kazy
Cleveland City Councilman - Ward 16
216-664-2942
Mediation an option for conflicts in the community

Give BPDC a call if you are having a conflict or quality of life problem on your street and are not sure where to turn. BPDC is a neutral third-party responding to quality of life conflicts between neighbors, landlords and tenants, and businesses and residents offering a variety of options to manage conflict, including mediation.

Here is a quote from a resident who participated in mediation: “It’s better to get along than to argue—it’s too stressful. We solved a lot just by talking.” Another resident said: “I don’t want to sue the lady or any of that. I just want to sit down and talk to her and have her stop doing certain things. Every time I try to talk with her she blows up. All I want is peace and quiet!”

Call BPDC at 216-671-2710 and ask for Ian or email him at i.heisey@bpdc.org

Subcity is Coming Soon!

Subcity restaurant, a locally owned carryout restaurant with additional locations in Cleveland, Euclid, and Maple Heights, will be opening in half of the newly constructed building in front of Cubesmart at 13820 Lorain. They anticipate opening by late-summer. Subcity is an east/Asian fusion restaurant that offers a variety of small plates, craft cocktails and shareable dishes.

Their menu includes a variety of subs, wraps, salads, loaded potatoes, fries, and rice bowls. They also have a kids menu and vegetarian options. Be on the lookout for a grand opening announcement soon!

Time to Address Those Home Maintenance Needs

Summer is here! With most people spending more time at home here is a short list of home maintenance items for warmer weather and do-it-yourself projects:

☐ Keep your grass mowed.
☐ Yard clean-up such as removing litter, leaves and maintaining grass and bushes not only add to curb appeal but your neighbors will appreciate you!
☐ Check your gutters for leaks and clean out debris such as leaves for proper flow. Examine your roof for any missing shingles.
☐ Look around your house for torn screens or cracked windows. Hardware stores in our neighborhood can help with materials!
☐ Now is the time to address any peeling paint on your house or garage.
☐ Trim any overhanging tree branches that touch your house or garage.
☐ Take your trash cans in the day of your trash pick-up, bulk pick-up will be the weeks of June 29th, July 6th and 13th. Bulk items can always be taken to the Ridge Road transfer station.
☐ Most importantly help your neighbors-some do not have the capacity to clean their yard or maintain grass and they may appreciate your asking.

If you are looking to do a larger project around the house and need any help here is a list of home maintenance items for warmer weather and do-it-yourself projects:

☐ Yard clean-up such as removing litter, leaves and maintaining grass and bushes not only add to curb appeal but your neighbors will appreciate you!
☐ Check your gutters for leaks and clean out debris such as leaves for proper flow. Examine your roof for any missing shingles.
☐ Look around your house for torn screens or cracked windows. Hardware stores in our neighborhood can help with materials!
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☐ Take your trash cans in the day of your trash pick-up, bulk pick-up will be the weeks of June 29th, July 6th and 13th. Bulk items can always be taken to the Ridge Road transfer station.
☐ Most importantly help your neighbors-some do not have the capacity to clean their yard or maintain grass and they may appreciate your asking.

Step Up with the Census!

The State of Ohio census response rate on June 15th is 65% but Cleveland’s is only 45%.

GO TO MY2020CENSUS.GOV

Your household’s response is valuable: every person that does not fill this out costs us $2,880 in federal funds that will not come to our state, city, or neighborhood.

Senior/Disabled Grass Cutting Program is Up and Running

With summer coming and grass growing the last thing you need to worry about is who’s going to help you maintain your yard. BPDC has a grass cutting program for senior and disabled residents in Wards 16 and 17 who qualify and have no one close by to help them. We can cut, weed whip and blow the grass off your driveway and sidewalk. We are not landscapers but we can keep your yard maintained so as not to get a violation notice from the city. If you are interested in our program, please give Judy a call at 216-671-2710 x221 and she will mail you out an application. In the meantime, please stay healthy and safe!
disinfected. Curbside pickup is provided as an option. Smaller stores, such as Torch and Vinny’s, restrict customer access to much of the store, and instead have employees fetch merchandise. Walh Norek, owner of Torch, explained that his staff will happily make three or four, or as many trips are necessary to find the exact, right item for a customer. Paul Vasko, owner of Vinny’s, related that many customers are seeking out smaller stores, such as his, to avoid the large numbers of people at bigger stores – reducing their chances of being exposed to COVID-19.

La Plaza Supermarket, as a bigger operation than Vinny’s or Torch, has no restrictions on customer access. However, La Plaza has installed plexiglass barriers at registers and has staff provide friendly reminders to customers to maintain six feet of distance.

Customers also play an important part in containing the spread of COVID-19. Most businesses are not placing requirements on customers, but are encouraging simple, best practices such as wearing face masks, maintaining social distancing, and regularly washing and sanitizing hands.

BPDC is grateful to every business that is taking steps to keep all of us safe. We encourage all of you to make a conscious effort to support these, and other local, independent businesses that are participating in the Shop Smart, Shop Safe, Shop Small program.

**Blessed Trinity Planning New Microloan Program for Grassroots Entrepreneurs**

A team of parishioners and community members at Blessed Trinity Parish have been working on a new project that they’re excited to roll out to the community in the next few months – a resource that will provide grassroots entrepreneurs access to resources and funding to support or grow businesses in the Westpark area.

The new program will offer very low interest “microloans” with manageable monthly payments and a simple, accessible application process designed to make it work for people who may have had no prior experience with any form of business financing, or who may simply need some resources to help them get a project going. Designed to help more people build their own earnings, particularly those who may find challenges with employment, the Microloan Program will provide more than just finances – it will also bring entrepreneurs into a network of helpers who can provide support in a range of ways, from legal advice to help with marketing services, bookkeeping and business planning.

The parish expects to have them available by mid-June. For more information on the Blessed Trinity Microloan Program, contact Fr Doug Koesel -- dkoesel@blessedtrinitycleveland.org or call the parish at 216-671-5890.

**Der Braumeister’s**

it is possible for an independent restaurant to pivot and adapt, even when faced with a global pandemic.

The first part of dealing with COVID-19, for restaurants, has been to pivot to take-out and delivery service. Ms. Wirtz immediately implemented an on-line ordering system using Toast – a web-based software package that integrates directly with a business’s existing point of sale system. This platform allows orders to be sent directly from a customer’s web browser to the restaurant’s kitchen. Toast orders can also be received on a tablet.

Shortly after the initial lockdown, Der Brau was selected as a partner for a Cleveland Clinic program to provide heat and serve meals to Clinic employees at several area hospitals. The program was funded through donations to the Clinic’s COVID-19 Response Fund, which is directed toward caregiver support programs and is part of Cleveland Clinic’s COVID-19 Community Response Campaign.

Ms. Wirtz explained that the Clinic chose Der Brau because of its diverse menu of comfort food, reasonable price point, and central location.

This partnership allowed Der Braumeister to bring back its entire staff. In addition, Ms. Wirtz made a deliberate effort to order food from other, nearby, independent restaurants to feed her staff, as they prepared thousands of meals for Cleveland Clinic Staff and used a lot of locally sourced food in her meals for the Cleveland Clinic.

Der Brau is temporarily closed to the public, as the Cleveland Clinic meals are a full time job. However, you can purchase gift cards on their website. They will donate $5 for every $50 worth of gift cards sold to the Cleveland Food Bank. Ms. Wirtz told your correspondent, “When this is all over I can’t wait to cut that check to the food bank!”

We are proud that Der Braumeister is part of the Bellaire-Puritas community and applaud all their efforts throughout this challenging time. Be sure to drop in once they are able to re-open. In the meantime, please also be sure to patronize our many great, independent, local restaurants that remain open for carry-out and delivery.

Der Braumeister also donated dinner meals to two alcohol and addiction recovery centers in Cleveland. Ms. Wirtz and the majority of her staff volunteered their time to prepare and deliver dinner meals to 20 men and 20 women at the Edna House and Lantern Center for Recovery.

For more information on the recovery centers and opportunities to donate or volunteer your time, please visit https://ednahouse.org/ and https://www.thelantern.info/.
THANK YOU
Councilman Kazy

for your Leadership and Support of the Lorain Project and working with

for their New Location at
13820 Lorain Ave,
Cleveland, OH 44111
Community: An essential need

Just as the plants and flowers in your garden need soil, water and sunshine, people need community to thrive. During this time of the pandemic and physical distancing and the uprooting of life as we know it, there has been much talk of the importance of social connection, interdependence, and a sense of responsibility to the common good.

What has come into focus over the last three months of quarantine is hopefully a new appreciation for the value of connection with others and the realization that we are stronger and better together.

Community engagement is an important value at Bellaire-Puritas Development Corporation, BPDC. We seek to foster connections among diverse stakeholders and extend invitations for people to participate in activities and stay in communication with each other and with our agency. What does this engagement look like? It could be volunteering to help distribute food at the St. Paul AME food pantry or Bountiful Basement at Blessed Trinity Church to help people who have been hit hard by a job loss. Engagement could mean taking part in a community garden to grow healthful food for yourself and to donate to others, or it could be volunteering to help at the Haunted Hallow in the fall to bring free fun activities to families.

Engagement could look like participation in neighborhood associations and the West Park Neighbor Night which provides a two-way street of information exchange, develops leadership opportunities, provides opportunities for residents to have a voice, and build social connections between neighbors. Research shows that people who volunteer and are involved in civic life in some way tend to be involved in other ways such as voting on a regular basis and filling out the Census form.

Other examples include bringing a side-dish to a pot-luck or encouraging your neighbor to complete the Census. It could look like being part of a neighborhood clean-up, or attending the Councilman’s Town Hall or the annual BPDC Neighborhood Summit, or signing up to receive the BPDC e-blitz to stay informed and connected.

It could be welcoming a new neighbor, letting them know when garbage day is, and highlighting the positives of our community. It also might even mean asking tough questions and looking at the root causes of inequality and exclusion in our city and exploring how we can create a community where 25 percent of our neighbors living in Ward 16 are not living below the poverty line and have equal access to opportunity. Ward 16 in West Park has many great assets to feature including our strong and stable housing stock, our many parks, strong schools, safety and convenient proximity to many things. However, the number one asset in our community is the people. That means YOU! We took a brief survey of folks who attended the 2019 Jefferson Rocks West Park summer concert series what people consistently said, and is that what they like about the community are the people!

According to the Knight Foundation’s study called The Soul of Community, which looked at what mattered most to people in 26 cities in terms of feeling connected and satisfied with their community, what ranked the highest were social offerings (opportunities for social interaction, openness (how welcoming the community is to different people) and aesthetics (physical beauty and green space.).

Even during this pandemic, people are finding creative ways to connect with others such as gathering at the end of their driveway for a little happy hour like folks on W. 155th Street did, or members of the W. 130th Block Watch distributing food to neighbors, or youth sending colorful postcards to seniors to brighten their day. A couple of neighbors in the Rockport Community Partners group said that during the pandemic they “have walked more and found streets they never went down before” and another neighbor who put a friendly sign in her yard to wish her neighbors a nice day said she has met more neighbors than she ever thought she had and observed that “the neighborhood has gotten more one on one—it’s friendlier.”

“Social isolation is the public health risk of our time,” says Susan Pinker, author of The Village Effect. She adds that a third of the U.S. population says they have two or fewer people to lean on, and a quarter of the population says they have no one to talk to. Pinker says that having strong social connections is a more powerful predictor of living a long life than exercise, diet or smoking habits! These interactions release powerful and positive hormones in the body and can improve health. Having a strong “village” helps your own wellbeing and that of the wider community. It is true that we are in this pandemic…in this community…together.

To learn more about how to get involved in any of the activities mentioned above, or to suggest an idea, please email Lindsay at l.wheeler@bpdc.org or Ian Heisey at i.heisey@bpdc.org. Thank you!

BPDC connects with partners to secure funds and help supply basic needs

The Community Essential Needs Collective, CENC, was convened by BPDC and includes two local pantries that serve people in need of food, facing food insecurity for reasons of household poverty or changing economic and social conditions related to COVID-19

Bellaire Puritas Development Corporation, St. Paul AME Church Pantry and The Bountiful Basement (at Blessed Trinity Church) and Neighborhood Family Practice are combining our response effort in order to broaden our impact thanks to a COVID-19 grant from the Cleveland Foundation.

We will be using the funds to accomplish these specific goals.

• Expand each pantry’s budget to respond to the significant increase in families experiencing food insecurity in our community. Pantries will be able to use additional funds to purchase more food from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

• Secure and provide needed toiletries and cleaning supplies so that families can maintain safe homes during this pandemic.

• Increase access to healthcare for community members who have lost health insurance or are struggling to receive their standard healthcare.

• Expand our communication to vulnerable community members by securing dollars for postage costs to provide specific health information and personalized letters at each neighborhood hub, focusing on BPDC’s shut-in population and clients of Neighborhood Family Practice.

• Support will also be given to the work of the St. Vincent DePaul Society based at Blessed Trinity Church to support basic needs for people such as rent, utilities and medical bills.
Ward 16 Neighborhood Associations

Rockport Community Partners
Meets first Wednesdays of the month at 6:30PM (virtually on zoom)
Normally meets at Bellaire Puritas Offices at 14703 Puritas Ave.
Residents living south of Lorain, north of Brookpark Road, between
W. 150th W. 140th
Leadership: Janice Grahovac – E-mail: janicegrahovac@gmail.com
Mona Gannon – E-mail: charmingloudcat@gmail.com
Lillian Prijalt – E-mail: Lillian9911@yahoo.com
Rockport Community Partners merged in February 2020 (formed from the
previous Glengar Community Association and PPG to Puritas Neighborhood
Association). The groups in the past have had a community-wide yard sale. Yard
of the Month competition, pot-lucks and cookouts, guest speakers on housing
and safety, and did a neighborhood survey.

Jefferson Park Concerned Citizens
Meets third Mondays at 7 PM (no in-person meetings at this time)
Normally meets at Slone Funeral Homes, 13115 Lorain Ave, Cleve., OH 44111
Residents living around Jefferson Park
Contact: Nancy Cosrey, John and Maureen Lavelle
E-mail: mayolavelles@aol.com
This longest existing group in the ward has focused on the quality of life
around Jefferson Park and encourages information exchange at their meetings
and advocacy for the park, one of the best assets in the community.

West Park Neighbor Up
Meets Second Wednesdays at 6 PM (no in-person meetings at this time)
United Church of Christ – 3090 Rocky River Dr, Cleveland, OH 44111
Residents of West Park
Contact: Danielle Roll-Doza – E-mail: danielle.doza@gmail.com
This high-energy monthly gathering brings a diverse network of neighbors
together to move our community forward. The Neighbor Night is a place to
share information, nurture connection and mutual support using a series of
practices that are safe and welcoming. Dinner is provided and everyone is
invited to experience the power of the network.
For Neighbor Up Community of Practice weekly meetings check our website
details at http://neighborupcleveland.org/

West 130th Block Watch
Normally meets the first Tuesdays of the month at 6 pm at the West Park
Academy at W. 130th and Benningham Avenue (Former Annunciation Church).
Monthly meetings are on hold because of Covid.
Follow the “Cleveland West 130th BLOCK WATCH” Facebook group for
updated information
Residents living between the bridges along W. 130th
Contact: Yolanda Cosso – E-mail: internetasinc@aol.com and
Contact: Laura Aquila – Email: laura_aquila2002@yahoo.com
The group has been very active bringing food to neighbors, help start a
community garden at the corner of Sprecher Avenue and W. 130th, doing a Fall
Festival for families, helping with the National Nite Out Against Crime, and
inviting many guest speakers to their meetings ranging from community safety
to prevention of drug abuse and human trafficking and doing a fundraiser for the
dance team at West Park Academy.
If you live in an area currently without a neighborhood association and would
like to get involved to help start one, we are interested in helping you! Please
contact us: Lindsay Wheeler at lwheeler@bpdc.org or Ian Heisey at iheisey@bpdc.org.

Caught being good!
Members of the Rockport Community Partners are working together to spot
outstanding yards in their community and nominate them to win a $25 gift
card to Marc’s and a special shout out in the BPDC Community Post Newsletter. The members of Rockport Community Partners want to establish a
positive way to bring awareness
to the people in our community going
the extra mile to make their yards look
beautifulful!

In choosing a winner Marcs will buy a $25 gift card to Marcs and book a special shout out in the BPDC Community Post Newsletter. You can check out the details about the schedule at www.
bpdc.org. Let us know if you have ideas for a guest speaker or topic to feature!

CALAENGED OF EVENTS

Challenge West Park begins July 20th!
July 28th: Drive-In Movie at Fairwood (Marc’s plaza)
1st Friday, 12 - 2 p.m.
Free produce give-away at West Park Baptist Church,
1600 W. 150th
Every Tuesday & Wednesday
Bountiful Basement 14040 Puritas Ave, Cleve., OH 44135
Tuesdays: 9-30 a.m. 12 noon & Wednesdays 5 - 6:45 p.m.
1st Wednesday, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Free produce give-away at Blessed Trinity Church,
4370 W. 140th
2nd Wednesday, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Free produce pantry items at West Park Friends Church,
3780 W. 140th St.
3rd Tuesday, 6 - 7 p.m.
West Park MyCom Youth Development Network Meetings
Monthly on Zoom.
Contact v.lange@bpdc.org for upcoming meeting details.
3rd Thursday
St. Paul AME Food Distribution 5 - 7 p.m.
& 3rd Friday 12 - 2 p.m. & 3 - 5 p.m. at 4118 Brooksida Blvd
FREE food pick up program all summer long at
West Preparatory Academy, 13111 Crossburn Avenue,
Mondays - 12 and Tuesdays from 9 - 12
Nichols Sports Foundation Bellaire Puritas Community
Ride, Saturday July 11, 12:00pm Rivery Park to Edgewater.
Bike giveaways. Social distancing will be maintained.
Walk the Wards with the City of Cleveland
Department of Aging this Summer: Ward 16 Walk
Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.
Ascension Village Senior Apartments – meet at
to the orchard in back of church lot
14130 Puritas Avenue – Cleveland, Ohio 44135
The Cleveland Department of Aging is sponsoring a walk in each of
the wards this summer. These are walks you can take at your own
pace but with the support of others. The walks will be outside.
Due to social distancing requirements, space will be limited,
as please call and register today. In case of inclement weather,
registered walkers will be notified if the walk is cancelled.
The Department of Aging will provide masks and have hand
sanitizer onsite.
Register at 684-3954 or at aging@city.cleveland.oh.us

Neighborhood News Share
Catch Up on what is happening in the community and hear from different
voices in the neighborhood such as local businesses, Councilman Kazy,
residents, youth leaders and others! Check out this very local way to stay in
the know with what is basically a 15 minute newscast once a week posted on
facebook and our website. You can check out details about the schedule at www.
bpdc.org.
By Ralph Pfingsten

We live in the Connecticut Western Reserve, an area that extends 120 miles westward from the Pennsylvania line and north to the shore of Lake Erie. Surveyors came from the Connecticut Land Company to divide the land into square townships of five miles on each side. But these surveys were not finished until 1803.

Most of the pioneers to Northeast Ohio came from the east in ships on Lake Erie or on trails along the shoreline. However, it was not until 1819 that enough people were here to form a township government. It was at that time that the name Rockport was given to the township. Because the Rocky River and its deep valley split the township in half, most of the settlers stayed on the east side. Settlement on the west side of the river lagged. East Rockport (Lakewood) developed the earliest, followed by Rockport Hamlet (West Park).

The communities of Rocky River and Fairview Park came later.

Various names were given to West Park over the years including, Rockport Hamlet, Rockport Village, West Park Township, West Park Village, The City of West Park, and after 1922, the community of “West Park” in Cleveland. Regardless of the name, the boundaries were, and still are, West 117th on the east, Brookpark Road on the south, the Rocky River on the west, and the Lakewood border on the north. And all of this area is of interest to those of us in the West Park Historical Society!

Reach Success retains their stride serving students virtually

By the time Ohio announced school facility closures on March 13th, Reach Success, which operates a K-12 tutoring program in partnership with Gunning Recreation Center, had already begun building their capacity to work with students virtually. By the end of March, their virtual program was up and running with one-on-one tutoring twice weekly for their students at no charge to the families. The programming is currently serving 37 students with a staff of 14 tutors.

The Reach Success staff has worked to overcome the digital divide by engaging with students through whatever technology each family has available. For some students, that means talking by phone and texting screenshots or photos of worksheets. With other students they are doing video conferencing on Zoom, Facetime, Google Meets or other platforms the student has access to and feels comfortable with.

Bill Horning, Reach Success Founder and President, notes the many advantages of moving their program virtually. Both the students and their parents are highly engaged, and tutors can individualize the lessons based on the students’ interests. Now that all students in each grade, regardless of their school or teacher, have the same work packets from CMSD to complete, tutors have also been able to review and work through the content in advance and better prepare for each tutoring session.

The Reach Success program at Gunning is provided through the City’s Neighborhood Resource and Recreation Centers initiative, which funded the program for three 10-week sessions during the school year. Reach Success was not originally planning on doing a summer session, but the switch to remote learning for the last two months of school changed that. They are now scheduled to provide a 5-week summer session starting July 6th, so that the students can work on the unfinished learning that didn’t take place due to the school closures. While this leaves the organization with a 7-week gap in their contract with the City, they plan to continue working with their current students without interruption.

Reach Success is currently hiring tutors to meet the demand of neighborhood families. Visit their website at reachsuccess.org for more information.

Nino’s Pizza on West 130th and Harold Avenue

As told to Elaine Schultz Stailey by Sandy Barber Gamble

Nino’s was originally owned by my parents, Anthony (Nino) & Carmy Barber and my grandmother, Jenny Barber. When Grandmother retired, my Uncle Tom Barber became half owner.

When the original Nino’s opened in 1956, it was a very small restaurant with a jukebox. Kids would come in after school, order a coke, play music, and sit there for hours. Since that wasn’t working out, they changed it to an Italian Deli and Carry Out.

Many restaurants claim that they make everything on site - but they don’t. Nino’s did! I woke up to the smell of fresh bread every morning and pizza and spaghetti sauce every other day. Even the sausage was made there. (Kids at school said I smelled like pizza.)

There was no air conditioning, so we worked in front of a 600-degree pizza oven with one small window fan. Various aunts, uncles, and cousins worked with us over the years. Relatives would stay on the east side. Settlement on the west side of the river lagged.

The Happy Hour Bar across the street was robbed multiple times; Nino’s never was (even one night when Dad forgot to lock the front door). One time, a truck driver, leaving the bar in his cab, drove directly across the street, right into the side of the building, where my family lived. We pulled back the curtain and the driver was directly in front of the window. My Dad had just recently repaired the cracks in the walls, but they all opened up again when the truck hit. I remember them laughing and the cracks were never fixed again.

Nino’s closed in 1972 because the landlord decided to tear down the building and construct more stores on the parcel. Unfortunately, Nino’s wasn’t given enough space to support its business, so that was that.

Years later, in 1990, my parents and Uncle Tom opened Nino’s Italian Restaurant in North Ridgeville. When my parents retired, Uncle Tom owned and ran the business for many years. Nino and Tom’s niece, Loretta (Valenti) Flasher now owns it. Recipes from this Calabrian family were passed down through generations. Please stop in and don’t forget to try Carmy’s white chocolate cheesecake. Buon appetito!
BPDC’s Youth Development Team Shifts Programming

When Ohio shut down schools, after-school programs, and in-person events in mid-March, BPDC’s Youth Development department quickly adapted to new ways of connecting with youth and families.

Our team started by reaching out to families we serve to check in and see what they needed. The initial needs from many families concerned at-home learning. We were able to help a number of families get access to CMSD work packets who didn’t have home printers or weren’t able to make it to meal distribution sites. We started distributing school supplies and learning activities to families through door-to-door deliveries. Throughout the month of April, we distributed supplies to over 200 children. As food became a larger need throughout the course of the shutdown, we made many referrals to our neighborhood food pantries, The Bountiful Basement and St. Paul AME, and continues to be a great resource for neighborhood food pantries, The Bountiful Basement and St. Paul AME, and need throughout the course of the shutdown, we made many referrals to our neighborhood food pantries, The Bountiful Basement and St. Paul AME, and continues to be a great resource for families looking for ideas to keep their children engaged through the summer months. We are also sharing activity ideas and resources on our Instagram account, @WestParkMyCom.

We were able to stay connected with our teens through Instagram, phone calls and texts, and recently started holding weekly Teen Job Club meetings on Zoom. Meetings are Wednesdays at 5:00pm. All teens, ages 14-18, are welcome to join the meetings, and should email Kadie at k.szynczuk@bpdc.org to get the Zoom link.

The Youth Development staff looks forward to seeing our kids in person again soon, but until then, we are here to support West Park families however we can with resources and virtual programming. If your family needs assistance, please reach out to us at (216) 671-2710 x218 or v.lange@bpdc.org.

Say Yes Cleveland continues from page 1

becoming a Multicultural Arts school and have hired a second art teacher that specializes in art therapy.

New Tech West, a small high school that specializes in technology-rich, project-based learning, is also joining the Say Yes program this coming school year. “It is both a pleasure and an honor for New Tech West High School to be a Say Yes School,” said Principal Shaunamichelle Leonard. “This opportunity will ensure that our scholars have the tools needed to be successful… We want our scholars to address barriers that hinder their success such as improving math and literacy skills, addressing mental health, facing self-inflicted barriers, while simultaneously planning for their future. This holistic approach allows scholars to reach their full potential and truly prepares them to be able to follow their dreams post high school.”

Garfield and New Tech West join the first Say Yes school in West Park, John Marshall High School of Civic and Business Leadership, which was part of the first cohort of Say Yes to Education schools for the 2019-2020 school year. All CMSD schools will be part of the Say Yes program by the 2022–2023 school year.

Say Yes Cleveland offers tuition scholarships for graduating CMSD students, provides additional support services for students and families, and increases after-school opportunities. For more information on Say Yes Cleveland, visit sayyescleveland.org, allows scholars to reach their full potential and truly prepares them to be able to follow their dreams post high school.

Congratulations to all the Class of 2020 graduates!!

BPDC Launches Virtual Summer Camp

Summer camp looks a little different this year, but it’s still guaranteed to be filled of fun, friends and learning! BPDC’s camp is a combination of virtual programs on Zoom, at-home activity challenges with all supplies and materials provided, and small-group in-person neighborhood fun.

The 5-week camp is for ages 7-12 years old and includes math and reading enrichment activities to help prepare students for the new school year. Our community partners are providing a range of classic summer camp activities including dance, art, soccer, scouting, yoga and more on Zoom and in person. In-person events are being held outdoors at locations around the neighborhood for the convenience of our participating families. These events are being provided in groups smaller than ten, and enforcing social distancing guidelines for everyone’s safety.

Follow West Park MyCom on Instagram and Facebook to see what summer camp is up to each week. We are providing activity ideas and instructions on social media so families can join us in the fun all summer even if they aren’t enrolled!
The New Normal – Fostering Health and Resilience

“What is Normal?” is one of those questions that requires a point of view. When we see this quote on bumper stickers or T-Shirts it is usually meant to imply rules on social activity throughout the state that affect our own life. With Public Health Orders being issued, mainly by the State of Ohio, there have been days we could ask each other “what is normal?” and not know the answer.  

With a virus spreading that has no vaccine, official public health recommendations that call for individuals to use masks, set a maximum number of people at an in-person public or private gathering, and determine whether a business can be open or closed to the public, are more a matter of fact than a suggestion. While official public health orders can be confusing, they are based on maintaining our public health and safety. These changing rules will likely be a “new normal” part of our collective life for many, many months ahead. It is important to keep paying attention to the Ohio Department of Health, as it is at the center of these COVID-19 Public Health Interventions.

When assessing a community’s preparedness for emergencies, one looks for what is termed “community resilience.” Community Resilience is defined as the sustained ability of communities to withstand, adapt to, and recover from adversity (US Dept of Health & Human Services, Office of Preparedness and Response). West Park is a strong community we would like to help become more resilient. BPDC has staff persons that can readily develop programs to promote community resilience. In the past few months, we have done so in every sector of our work in response to the new norms of COVID-19.

Youth and Workforce Development

Our Youth Development department has shifted its programming to adjust to the new reality. Recognizing that schools are not likely to re-convene “as usual” this coming school year our staff has developed the ability to convene students as well as families and instructors to lead programs virtually. They have also turned their program delivery model around, from delivering services, to serving children and their families by connecting them to the necessary services and programs that could help them get through this pandemic, or the economic fallout from the pandemic.

Community Engagement

Our community engagement staff is working with neighbors, youth and families to develop activities like the Challenge West Park and use teleconferencing technology for community meetings and virtual ‘townhall’ meetings to help residents and community stakeholders stay in touch with each other and keep up with the progress in the neighborhood. We will continue to work with people to develop on-line programming that helps keep us all connected and civically involved.

Home Energy and Housing Assistance

In our Home Energy Assistance and our Housing office staff are combining their week with both ‘work-at-home’ tasks and tasks at the office or in the field. Our doors are not open to the public but our Home Energy Assistance staff continue to keep appointments using a combination of new internet technologies (new to us) that allow staff to receive household information digitally and complete the application on-line. Our Housing staff has a combination of office work and field work. They are essential to getting information and assistance out to the community about housing violations, bulk trash pickup, home repair and home improvement.

Senior and Neighborhood Services

Like much of the neighborhood, BPDC has staff persons, and seasonal staff that cannot work from home. The tasks we carry out, like neighborhood cleanups and cutting grass for senior and disabled people in the neighborhood cannot be done by remote. We have to leave the house, and check in for work, like normal. But it is not the same. No one can come to work if they are presenting a fever or dry cough or other symptoms of the disease. None of us know if we carry the virus without presenting symptoms, or if we might encounter another person that might have it. Like other outdoor workers, or contractors, we have masks and gloves or other PPE (personal protective equipment) that must be worn in the presence of others. Our vehicles and equipment need to be more deeply and more frequently cleaned.

Community Development

These kinds of precautions can be observed by BPDC as we are a small organization and can make our own decisions. Similarly, independent contractors and small business owners have more control over their conduct and over their environment (truck, office or store). To promote widespread and support for small businesses that are doing the right thing amid this pandemic,
Free Tech Training for Teens with Classrooms to Corporations

High School students can receive free job training in the technology field this summer from Classrooms to Corporations. Classrooms to Corporations is offering training in the IC3 GS5 certification, an industry-recognized credential designating that an individual is proficient in using modern technology effectively. Advanced students will be able to work towards earning their Microsoft Technology Associate certificate, which is an entry-level certification for jobs specifically in the tech field.

The course will be delivered online and students will be able to work at their own pace and check in with Classrooms to Corporations staff when they have questions or need assistance. Interested students should contact Rosalind Strickland at estrickland@classroomstocorporations.org for more information on enrolling in the program.

See A Doctor Without Leaving Home!

Appointments by video or phone are now available.

Is COVID-19 impacting your work, education, or health insurance? Are you having medical or mental health issues that need attention? We’re here to help. Neighborhood Family Practice provides affordable quality care for everyone, at ALL times. Schedule a telemedicine visit with one of our skilled providers—by video or phone.

To schedule a virtual visit today with an NFP provider call 216.281.0872.

For answers to frequently asked questions about telemedicine, or for more information about NFP services, visit nfpmedcenter.org.

Important: Individuals experiencing fever, cough or shortness of breath should NOT go to an NFP community health center, please call us at 216.281.0872 for information on how to obtain care.

Neighborhood Family Practice
14625 Puritas Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44135

Neighborhood Family Practice complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. (See NFP's Notice of Nondiscrimination.) If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) at 1-800-669-4973.

Neighborhood Family Practice is a community health center and a patient-centered medical home. Neighborhood Family Practice is a Health Center in the Health Center Program administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Neighborhood Family Practice is a Health Center Program grantee under 42 U.S.C. 254b, and a deemed Public Health Serviceemployee under 42 U.S.C. 237b. A list of Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) reaccreditation standards can be found at: https://healthit.hhs.gov/pcmh/external/pcmh-standards-2013.pdf.

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Bellaire Puritas Development Corporation (BPDC)
14703 Puritas Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44135

Ward 16 Councilman Brian Kazy

NO SHOWING HIDDEN FIGURES

DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT

WARD 16

SATURDAY JULY 25 @ DUSK

LOCATION: FAIRWOOD (MARC’S) PLAZA
(W. 136TH & LORAIN AVE.)

SOCIAL DISTANCING
For safety purposes, vehicles will be spaced 6 feet apart during the film. If you leave your vehicle, please stay at least 6 feet from others. Wear a face covering around others.

FREE EVENT FOR THE COMMUNITY!