

WEST PARK

MAGAZINE

WEST PARK KAMM'S NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT | FALL 2023



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See page 14

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FROM THE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT

DEAR NEIGHBORS,

With cooler temperatures and kids back in school, fall is nearly here! Use all things fall as a reason to support local businesses a little more — who doesn't need their pumpkin latte fix or a few mums for the yard?

Neighbors can also get into the fall spirit at WPKND's Kamm's Corners Farmers Market, which continues on Sundays through October 15th with every kind of pumpkin and decorative gourd imaginable available from local farmers. Join us at the last market for a special Halloween Market; kids and pets (and you!) are encouraged to come in costume for a trick-or-treating and family-friendly activities. For something spookier and educational, enjoy a walk Halloween walk through Alger Cemetery with WPKND and West Park Historical Society on October 11 (more info on page 24).

Fall is a great time to get involved in the community! WPKND worked with resident-leaders who are passionate about helping make the neighborhood a better place over the summer on initiatives that are happening this fall. These resident-lead efforts include neighbors of Apelt and surrounding streets working on traffic calming through decorative crosswalks, the West Park Green Team's Pollinator Pathways, Friends of Impett Park, and West Park Professionals Group. Reach out to Rebekah at rebekah@westparkkamms.org from our team to get involved in one of these efforts or for assistance for your own group or project.

Finally, thank you for a great summer — we loved seeing you at The Hooley, Farmers Market, Pop-Ups in the Parks, and Explore West Park events! Cheers to more fun with you in West Park this fall!

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Susan P. Blankenship | Board President

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Lesley Vizurraga — Bringing Together Professionals in West Park

by Rebekah Ferro

In a post-pandemic world, a lot of people are eager to get out, reconnect with others, and even make new connections. One West Park resident who is working to create a space to do just that is Lesley Vizurraga. Lesley describes herself as a fitness enthusiast who loves any opportunity to move her body, build a genuine relationship, and grow her neighborhood community. She moved to West Park from Tremont in July of 2020. Rather than choosing West Park, Lesley believes West Park chose her. She found “the most beautiful house for the most reasonable price” on Larchwood and made an offer. The friendly neighborhood feel, the walkability, and the inviting atmosphere all drew her to choose West Park as her new home. For Lesley, neighborhood highlights include taking her three dogs, Booboo, Remi, and Ralph, for walks and bike rides in the Rocky River Reservation, getting coffee at Savor the Moment, learning from the extremely helpful and knowledgeable staff at ACE Hardware, and getting out



into her community for socialization and collaboration. She recognizes that West Park is an up-and-coming neighborhood with more young professionals moving in all the time, and Lesley is excited to be a part of building that up with her community of neighbors. She

sees a lot of promise within West Park and is eager to see it reach its full potential.

Lesley brings her love of collaboration not just to her personal life, but to her professional life as well. She has worked in business development for 15 years and is currently a Business Development Manager at Fleet Team, a material-handling equipment consulting firm. She works with Fortune 500 companies to ease the management and maintenance of equipment. No two clients are the same, and that is part of what makes Lesley’s job exciting. She loves collaborating and problem-solving with companies in order to find out what exactly works for them. She also has an amazing team of coworkers that make her job more enjoyable every day.

When Lesley lived in Cleveland’s Tremont neighborhood, she found it to be an incredibly social environment. There were groups and places to go where you could meet new people and connect with others. When she moved to West Park, she had no knowledge of any social networks in the neighborhood, so she decided to start the West Park Professionals Community (WPPC). This group is for any working individuals who could benefit from synergizing. Any professional who wants to build a new business relationship or is looking for an easy introduction to a new connection is welcome to join. Lesley hopes to build a community where residents can meet each other, connect professionally or personally, and build lifelong friendships. She notes that after the pandemic, a lot of people are looking for connections and to meet new people but are not sure where to go or how to do it. She hopes that the WPPC creates a space where the fear of meeting new



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Lesley hopes to build a community where residents can meet each other, connect professionally or personally, and build lifelong friendships.

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Lesley believes the West Park Professionals Community is important because it encourages collaboration, mutuality, and authenticity. She also wants West Park to have some fun! The WPPC gathers all kinds of pro-

fessionals from across West Park to meet, chat, have a few drinks, share in fellowship, and connect. Lesley hopes that the group will continue to grow as more professionals come out and experience the fun of socializing with other professionals who are also their neigh-

bors! Lesley is always looking for ways to invest her time, energy, and resources into West Park. She takes pride in her neighborhood and hopes that the WPPC continues to foster that pride in the people who come and connect.

If you are interested in joining the West Park Professionals Community, they meet on the first Wednesday of the month at PJ McIntyre's from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. If you would like to be added to their email list, you can contact Rebekah Ferro at rebekah@westparkkamms.org. ■



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West Park Pollinator Pathways

Cultivating Community Engagement and Biodiversity with the West Park Green Team.

by Emily Pikturna



The West Park Green Team is happy to share progress on the West Park Pollinator Pathways project, a community-driven effort aimed at creating a network of pollinator-friendly gardens throughout the neighborhood. Thanks to the support of a NeighborUp Action Grant, the Green Team has been able to bring this project to life and take steps towards conserving local biodiversity and supporting essential pollinators. With lots of hard work, Green Team volunteers successfully established nine pollinator gardens for free in resident lawns across the community. Those who applied and received a free garden were required to put the garden in a space with an existing grass lawn. Maintaining lawns of monoculture grass has long been a hallmark of the West Park landscape, but it comes at a cost to the

environment. While the lush green grass may look aesthetically pleasing, the ecological impact of sod can be harmful. Even the addition of a small garden withing a front lawn, can bring tremendous benefits. 15+ volunteers worked together to remove roughly 450 square feet of sod in total. Throughout this project, volunteers have played a crucial role, contributing their expertise, time, and dedication to bringing the West Park Pollinator Pathways to life. Their valuable knowledge and passion for native gardening have been instrumental in the initiative's success.

By creating these pollinator-friendly habitats, the Green Team hopes to foster a healthier ecosystem that supports a diverse range of plant and animal species. Pollinators play a pivotal role in the reproductive processes of many

plants, contributing to the production of fruits, vegetables, and seeds. Furthermore, to ensure a thriving and sustainable pollinator habitat, a variety of native plant species were carefully selected. These plants are well-adapted to the local climate and provide essential resources for pollinators. Among the species chosen for the gardens are: Little Bluestem, Swamp Milkweed, Black-Eyed Susan, Purple Coneflower, Lanceleaf Coreopsis, Blanket Flower, Blue Vervain, Partridge Pea, Upright Coneflower, Skyblue Aster, and Northern Sea Oats.

Planting native species is crucial for the overall health of the ecosystem. Native plants have co-evolved with local wildlife, including pollinators, over thousands of years, creating an intricate web of interdependence. These



plants provide the necessary nectar, pollen, and shelter for native pollinators, helping to maintain balanced and resilient ecosystems.

If you're interested in cultivating a pollinator garden in your yard, there are plenty of resources to help you get started. The Ohio State University Extension website provides a wealth of information, including recommended plants, layout, and maintenance rec-

ommendations. You also have access to knowledgeable Master Gardener volunteers who can answer your questions as they arise. To get started, visit u.osu.edu/plantbynumbers

Are you already cultivating your own pollinator garden? We'd love to hear from you! Share your experiences, photos, and insights with the West Park Green Team and the community, inspiring others to join this pollina-

tor-friendly movement. We warmly welcome support from the community, be it through volunteering, offering expertise, or contributing resources. The Green Team will plant additional gardens on the evening of Thursday, September 28th and is always looking for more volunteers! Reach out to Emily Pikturna (emily@westparkkamms.org) for more information on how to get involved. ■



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Franciscan Village Marches Forward with Plans for the Future

by Ben Campbell



Above and below: The new community room at Franciscan Village is spacious and bright:
Below, right: A full service salon is available to the residents.

Franciscan Village, 3648 Rocky River Drive, has been offering housing for independent adults aged 62+ since the 1970s. The 176-unit residential campus is characterized by historic architecture and a serene, wooded site located next to the Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Reservation.

Ambitious plans for the facility began several years ago. In the past year, one phase has been completed and another set of plans launched. Renovations were completed to the existing facility earlier this year and new construction plans are underway to add housing options with a construction start date slated for late this summer, representing the most substantial expansion of facility's capacity since 1995.



RENOVATIONS COMPLETED

Significant reinvestments have been completed for improvements to the apartment complex. The organizational commitment to sustainability is evident in the replacement of the lighting fix-



tures with all-new energy-efficient LED lighting, the installation of new energy-star-rated refrigerators and electric ranges in all units, and the replacement of all the existing boilers with high-efficiency boilers. To ensure accessibility



A fitness center has been added for the residents.



Each apartment has energy-star rated appliances, new countertops and hardwood cabinetry.

for all, walk-in showers were installed in every standard unit, and roll-in showers were installed in most accessible units. As part of the renovation, significant upgrades have been made to install new vinyl flooring throughout all corridors and units. The addition of new laminate countertops and hardwood cabinetry enhances the overall living experience for the tenants. In response

to the growing demand for accessible housing, the number of accessible units has been increased, complemented by audio/visual units catering to the hearing and visually impaired community. In addition, provisions were made for complimentary in-unit Wi-Fi access to all tenants, facilitating connectivity and convenience.

A broad array of new amenities have

been added to enhance the residents' quality of life. The recently acquired Activity Center, formerly the Rectory for Our Lady of Angels Church, has been transformed into a multifunctional space. This center now houses an on-site library, salon, computer lab, arts and crafts room, resale shop, fitness center, and therapy room. Also, the establishment of a state-of-the-art atrium and

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community room, boasting a seating capacity of more than 100, now serves as the primary venue for an extensive range of programs and events. Finally, a new walking trail on the northern side of the property has been introduced, encouraging an active and health-conscious lifestyle for tenants.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

In response to the pressing demand for affordable housing on the West Side of Cleveland, Franciscan Village has construction plans ready to build 63 units in a new four-story structure. As depicted in the rendering above, the architecture of the new building has been deliberately designed to complement the existing property, ensuring seamless integration within the Franciscan Village campus. Balconied units on the western facade will provide a captivating view of the Cleveland Metroparks valley. Earlier this year, the project design was approved by the Far West Design Review Committee and the Cleveland City



Planning Commission. Site improvements include an expansion of the parking facilities and the existing patio area will undergo a transformation. The goal is to commence leasing in Fall 2024, subject to the construction schedule. For more information, contact Alister Englehart at (216) 941-3330 or aenglehart@franvillage.org. ■







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Laura's Home Unveils Plans to Expand to Provide Transitional Housing

by Molly Crawford

Following their renovations in 2022, Laura's Home has unveiled the second phase of their expansion plan, 16 transitional housing units. These new units will expand the number of women and children that Laura's Home can serve, much needed relief for the facility which has been at or over capacity for seven years now.

Transitional housing is an important intermediary step for women who have graduated from the program, but still need the support and resources that Laura's Home provides or are struggling to find safe and affordable housing for themselves and their children. It also gives them more time to finish a degree, secure stable employment, and



Rendering of the new units.

ensures that their children have educational continuity. Frequent school changes often create challenges for children and families. Living on-site ensures that children are enrolled at the same school for up to three consecutive years, improving educational and emotional outcomes for those children.

The construction of the new units is expected to cost \$4 million. Laura's Home is a part of the City Mission, an organization funded entirely by private donors. With a fundraising goal of \$3.6

million, the City Mission received an answered prayer this June, when Dr. Fred and Jackie Rothstein gifted them \$1.5 million for the construction of new housing. The new development called Rothstein Village will be named after them. The groundbreaking for the new units is scheduled for November and they are expected to be ready for move-in next fall.

Interested in learning more about The City Mission and Laura's Home? Visit thecitymission.org/transitional-housing for more information. ■

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Bethany English Lutheran Church and WPKND Team Up to Transform Senior's Home

by CJ Demchak

Late in May, WPKND staff and Bethany English Lutheran Church's Community Engagement Team partnered up to transform the front steps of Mr. Farrel Thomas, a senior West Parker. The Community Engagement Team is a group of church members that seek out volunteer projects within the local community.

One of the leaders of that group is WPKND's very own Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator, Rebekah Ferro. Just as they were looking for a project, Mr. Thomas reached out to the WPKND housing team for some help with home repairs and maintenance. He needed assistance painting his front steps as well as help with his lawn and weeds. Although he is enrolled in our Senior Services Program, a partnership between Jefferson-Puritas, West Park



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CDC and WPKND, which helps with lawn mowing, it does not start until after Memorial Day.

Now retired, Farrel was a bus driver with a route out of the Triskett RTA station for 15 years. Like many residents aging in place, mobility issues have made it hard for him to take care of his yard and flower beds like he had in the past. To support those in need of assistance, WPKND housing staff connect residents with home maintenance-related programs and services – from seniors on a fixed income, to first-time home buyers, and everything in between.

For this project, WPKND's Senior Home Repair Grant, a grant of up to \$500 to help complete an exterior repair for an income-qualified senior, was used to support the purchase of paint and supplies. The Bethany Community Engagement Team volunteered their time and brought along lawn care equipment. With a robust and ambitious crew of volunteers, the group completed a wide range of tasks in



just four hours on a Saturday morning. They mowed the lawn, pulled weeds and tidied the garden, and trimmed hedges. The handrail and steps were scraped and painted. Volunteers collected eight large bags of yard waste from the front and back to help Ferrel restore his lovely garden and showcase large irises and roses that had been hidden by the weeds. When asked about his



experience, Farrel said, "Good work and humans are hard to come by — they were excellent!" ■



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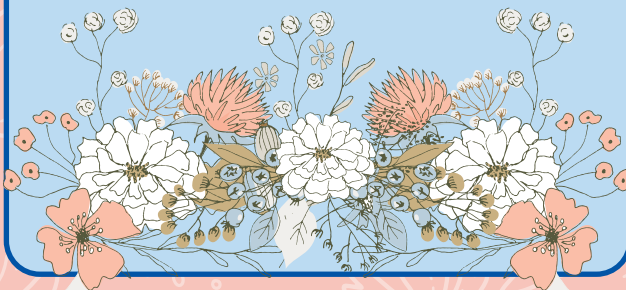
St. Paddy's at the Market

Be sure to join us after the Heroes Run on **September 17** for lots of Irish food, dance, and music, as well as a beer garden serving Working Class Brewery beer!



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Refresh your gardens by trading perennials with your neighbors on October 8!



Housing Workshops

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- **September 24 – Drywall Basics**
- **October 1 – Plumbing Repair**

Space is limited, so register to secure your spot today:

bit.ly/homerepairworkshop23

Halloween at the Market

On October 15, Kids can enjoy the vendor trick or treat trail, pumpkin painting, and other Halloween crafts! West Park Animal Hospital will be judging our dog costume contest, so be sure to bring your pups as well!



Food Assistance Dates



If you are a WIC member, be sure to swing by the market on these dates to secure up to an extra \$50 in food assistance coupons!

- September 10 – WIC and WIC Perks
- October 8 – WIC

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New Plant Store Opens on Lorain Avenue

by Ben Campbell



Ivelisse De Jesus, owner of Plant Bodega



West Park Kamm's neighborhood residents are known to take pride in their neighborhood. One way that pride is manifested is in residents' approach to landscaping and gardening. Just check out shoppers at Buyers Outlet, Marc's, or Puritas Nursery for examples.

There is now a new plant shopping option in the neighborhood. Plant Bodega quietly opened in a storefront at 15724 Lorain Avenue in April. Since then, the new business has been steadily building its customer base and expanding its offerings. Ivelisse De Jesus, the shop owner, was scouting locations for her new business in Tremont and West Park Kamm's. In a recent interview, she said she was convinced that West Park Kamm's was the ideal location for her new business after visiting local restaurants and walking side streets to 5 Points Coffee and seeing our residents' display of plantings and landscaping.

Ivelisse explained that her goal is to "share her passion for plants and to make established plants more accessible to people in a neighborhood boutique setting." The word is getting out quickly as she is seeing local customers in her store as well as those from as far afield as Lorain and Medina. The store's plant offerings focus on indoor plants including rare and common varieties as well as cacti and air plants (which do not require soil to grow).

To supplement the store's live plant offerings, plant accessories are available including house plant mix from Rust Belt Riders, plant food, plant potholders, and gift items such as soy candles and coffee mugs. Please pay a visit to the store or to the Kamm's Corners Farmers Market on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. from now until mid-October where Plant Bodega is a periodic vendor. Sign up for our weekly Kamm's Corners Farmers Market newsletter to stay up to date on which vendors will be attending each week at bit.ly/kcfmnewssignup. Plant Bodega's hours of operation are Wednesdays 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Thursdays 11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. As the business continues to grow, store hours will be expanded. For more information, call Plant Bodega at (216) 291-7333. ■



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Original Steaks & Hoagies Now Open in Warren Village Shopping Center

by Ben Campbell



Rich Lane is very familiar with the West Park Kamm's area. He was raised in the neighborhood and attended St. Mark School and then St. Edward High School. During his childhood, Rich has vivid memories of frequent trips to Warren Village to buy candy before going to Impett Park. Flash forward to the present, Rich, with his wife and co-owner, Dawn Coe, opened Original Steaks & Hoagies at 3362 Warren Road in June.

Rich said, "The tight knit community of West Park was the main reason my wife and I decided to open our first location here, and it just so happened there was a vacant former Subway store in this perfect spot," Rich said. (For reference, the location is adjacent to K&K Portage Market.)

The goal of Original Cheesesteaks & Hoagies is to offer customers the highest quality cheesesteaks. Cooked to order with fresh ingredients, shaved 100% ribeye steak is coupled with provolone cheese and placed on Amoroso rolls that are the same brand used in Philadelphia. For those who don't want a roll, customers can have a honey wheat wrap or a bowl with Romaine lettuce instead. For those who don't want steak, fresh chicken—sliced, fingers, or boneless wings—are available. In addition, flash-fried cauliflower can be ordered as a vegetarian option.

The menu also offers sides for the sandwiches. Their best sellers are the fresh-cut fries and beer-battered fries. The tater tots, homemade from hash browns, have varieties to choose from: traditional tater tots with [cheese] whiz, bacon, and cheese for the loaded tot, buffalo sauce for the buffalo tot, and pepperoni and marinara for the pizza tot.

All menu items are prepared at the time they are ordered. According to Rich, "the reception from the community has been amazing." From the day they opened they saw success, with a line of customers waiting outside the door starting at 8:00 a.m. He said business has remained consistent and strong ever since. The hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 10:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m., Friday & Saturday 10:30 a.m.–10:00 p.m., and Sunday 10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m. You can find them on Door Dash, Uber Eats, Grub Hub or order online at steaksandhoagies.com/westpark. ■



Manager Zachary Lane, Marty, and owners Rich Lane and Dawn Coe



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West Park Receives Tree Grant

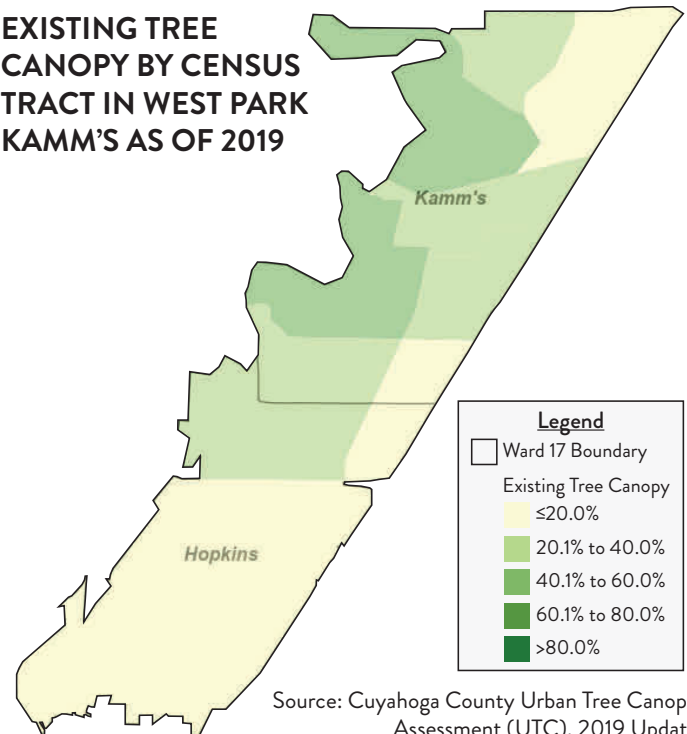
by Hannah Gall

West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development (WPKND) is honored to receive funds for tree planting in Ward 17. This project is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from the Cuyahoga County Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program. HUTC is a competitive grant program to promote a healthy tree canopy with funds for planting and maintenance. WPKND is one of 19 grantees this year, and this support will allow us to reach a goal of planting 75 new trees and maintaining them for the critical first years.

The majority of the tree plantings will be done in collaboration with the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority at Riverside Park, with some trees also intended to be planted on the neighboring streets. The addition of new trees in this region of the neighborhood will provide a host of benefits, helping to decrease its high climate vulnerability. Not only do trees provide an environmental boost in the way they capture carbon, stormwater run-off, and provide vegetation and homes for wildlife, trees also provide shade and beauty which in turn improves both physical and mental health.

Education about the importance and benefit of urban trees will also be provided through workshops and community planting days this fall. WPKND is excited to play a part in expanding our city's canopy and making West Park a cooler, cleaner, and greener neighborhood. ■

EXISTING TREE CANOPY BY CENSUS TRACT IN WEST PARK KAMM'S AS OF 2019



This project is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from the Cuyahoga County Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program.



Young's Art Center

2084 Lorain Rd 216 370 2414
YoungsArtCenter.com

Sharing art, creativity, and process-based learning with everyone.
YAC offers educational programming that ties to the Ohio Department of Education standards.

Homeschool Fridays: YAC will be open to any homeschool student age 7 and up from 1-3pm. ART activities and STEM challenges will be available for exploration. Meet monthly on the 1st Fri (9-8 to 12-7) reg fee \$15 each session

After-school Art Labs: YAC will be open on Wed 9/6 to 12/13 to any student age 7 & up from 3-5pm. ART & STEM challenges will be available for exploration. Reg Fee \$15 each session

Artful Storytelling: Dates 9/9, 10/14, 11/4, 12/1: ages 22mo. to 5yrs and 1 adult (must participate) from 10:30-11:30am

YAC To Go

For Schools, Daycares, Libraries, and other learning institutions

YAC is now accepting program requests for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year!

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IN NEED OF HOME REPAIRS?

WPKND
CAN HELP!
SEE PAGES 20-21

WPKND Seeking Community Visioning for Public Art

by Stuart Sopko and
Hannah Gall

West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development (WPKND) is excited to announce that we have received a grant to launch a public art program in Ward 17. The program will allow us to fund several murals throughout the neighborhood, instilling fun, beauty, and community pride along some of our busy commercial streets. To help inform the artwork and ensure it represents the community, we hosted a series of visioning activities this summer to hear from residents.

At events like our Pop-Ups in the Parks, Kamm's Corners Farmers Market, and other public gatherings, WPKND staff led community visioning exercises to learn about West Parkers' favorite places to go and things to do, as well as what makes this neighborhood and its



Visioning exercise at Impett Park pop-up

people so special. Participants also were inspired with images of murals from across Cleveland to provide feedback on what they like most about various styles. Having these interactions in person throughout all of Ward 17 — with engaging tasks like placing pins on maps and stickers on images — allowed a wide

range of people to share with us, from the littlest West Parkers to the oldest. Information gathered through this visioning process will be developed into prompts for artists, so that they can capture the community's sentiment and significance as they create their mural concepts. ■



GIVE US YOUR INPUT!



Didn't have a chance to participate in the visioning activities over the summer? There's still time! Although the in-person engagement opportunities have ended, an

online survey will continue to gather input until September 15th. If you have not already done so in person, please take a moment to fill out the survey and share your input with us!



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West Park Ward 17 Homeowner Resources

Need assistance with the expenses of homeownership or are looking to make home improvements? **Reach out to WPKND. We can help!**



Visit westparkkamms.org/live/maintain-a-home.

The **Healthy Homes Initiative** is a partnership between the City of Cleveland and community development corporations to improve the quality of life of residents and the city's housing stock. Through the program, West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development works closely with residents and landlords in Ward 17 to connect folks with resources, education, and training to help support safe and quality housing for all. **indicates income qualifying programs*

Contact Healthy Homes Specialist:
CJ Demchak, 216-252-6559 x 1300
or CJ@westparkkamms.org

For Senior Home Repair grants,
contact: CJ Demchak,
216-252-6559 x 1300
or CJ@westparkkamms.org

Homestead Water/ Sewer Discount*	Secure a lower fixed charge and consumption rate for seniors and/or permanent disabled individuals.
Senior Service Program (Ward 16 & 17)*	Schedule services such as gutter cleaning and lawn care for senior and disabled residents.
Water Affordability Program*	Offers a 40% discount on all standard water charges.
Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)*	HEAP assists eligible low-income residents with their winter home heating costs using natural gas, electric, oil, kerosene, or wood.
Lead Hazard Control Program (LHC)	Provides lead risk assessments, identifies lead-based paint and provides grants to control lead-based paint hazards.
Delinquent Tax Payment Plan	Payment plans are available for homeowners who live in their homes. Landlords may be eligible for installment plans (up to 24 months).
Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP)*	Offers energy efficient measures designed to decrease utility bills & improve energy deficiencies.



PAINT DISCOUNT

WPKND has teamed with our local Sherwin-Williams store in Kamms Plaza to offer discounts on paint and painting supplies. All residents of Ward 17 are eligible for the discount. To receive a voucher, contact WPKND at 216-252-6559, limit one per household.

SMOKE ALARMS

Be sure your home is safe with smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. The Cleveland Division of Fire has teamed up with the Red Cross Operation Save-A-Life Program to offer smoke detectors and fire safety information.

**Contact 216-361-5535
for assistance**



Cleveland 50/50 Sidewalk Residential Replacement	Partnership between the city and residents. Eligible repairs include sidewalks, driveway aprons, & curbs at the end of driveways.
Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS)	A low-interest (under 2%), fixed-rate, equity-based loan for maintaining & improving homes 50+ years. Interior & exterior projects qualify. Plus, free technical assistance on questions related to home conditions or repair.
Housing Enhancement Loan Program (HELP)	Provides home improvement loans, at 3% points below normal bank rates, for homeowners. No restrictions on a borrower's income and few limitations on what improvements can be made to a property.
West Park Sherwin-Williams Paint Program	Discounts on paint and painting supplies. All those living in Ward 17 are eligible. Limit one per household.
Senior Home Repair*	Small exterior repair grants of up to \$500 for seniors and adults with disabilities. Grants and grant size are income-qualifying.
CHN Energy Efficiency Services*	Services include insulation, LED bulb installation, and Energy Star refrigeration replacement.
Contractor List	Looking for help with a project at home? WPKND has a list of local contractors and tips for hiring one.
Cleveland Exterior Paint Program*	Provides free vouchers for paint and supplies to Cleveland homeowner-occupants and renters to paint the exterior of their house.
Senior Homeowner Assistance Program (SHAP)*	Grant available to low-income senior/disabled homeowners with houses in need of health, safety, and maintenance repairs such as roofs, porches, ramps, electrical or plumbing work.
Age-Friendly Home Improvement Program (AFHIP)*	Program for seniors/disabled homeowners to address critical home repair or maintenance projects.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

All Emergencies: 911

Cleveland Police, District 1 Office: 216-623-5100

Cleveland Police, Non-emergency: 216-621-1234

Cleveland Fire, Non-emergency HQ: 216-664-6800

Cleveland Fire, Smoke Alarms: 216-361-5535

Cleveland Refuse: 216-664-3717

Cleveland Animal Control: 216-664-3069

Councilman Charles Slife's Office: 216-664-4239

Cleveland Water Department: 216-664-3130

Cleveland Department of Aging: 216-664-2833

Gunning Recreation Center: 216-420-7900

Cuyahoga County Auditor Call Center: 216-443-7452

Cuyahoga County

Real Property Office: 216-443-7010

Social Service Referral: 211

Free Home Modifications for Seniors *by Hannah Gall*

We're excited to partner with the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging to support Ward 17 seniors who desire to age-in-place. WRAAA Works! is for eligible seniors who own and live in their homes and need modifications to stay safe and healthy. Eligible modifications include:

- Grab bars
- Toilet rails
- ADA toilets
- Disability accommodating showers
- Wheelchair and walker ramps
- Stair safety rails (indoor and outdoor)
- Easy to open windows

For older adults who want to stay in their home long-term, being able to afford the cost of necessary accessibility updates to accommodate changing mobility can be a major barrier. WRAAA Works! is a no cost program that can help with some of these critical modifications.

Reach out to WPKND to learn more about this program: CJ@westparkkamms.org, 216-252-6559 x1300 ■





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Support your neighborhood with an evening of festive fun!



Save the Date for December 7, 2023

All money raised goes to support the work that WPKND does including:

The Hooley • Kamm's Corners Farmers Market • Pop-Ups in the Parks
Senior Home Repair • Small Business Assistance • Public Art *and more!*



**Tickets go on sale
October 12**



*Scan here to be notified
when tickets go on sale:*



the hooley

KAMM'S CORNERS

TURNS 15!

Save the Date: June 8, 2024

New Investments in Recreation Facilities *by Councilman Charles Slife*

Seeking better city services and amenities for their growing community, residents of West Park Village voted to be annexed into the City of Cleveland over one hundred years ago. Over the last century, our neighborhood has certainly grown and flourished. As council member for Ward 17, I recognize the need for Cleveland to continually reinvest in our neighborhood to ensure that the coming century is as strong as the last.

This includes our neighborhood parks and recreation center. A \$2.5-million contract has been awarded to fully rebuild the closed pool at Gunning Recreation Center and efforts are underway to quickly identify additional funds to further leverage \$0.75 million that have been set aside for a new playground at Impett Park.

Keeping our neighborhood strong is about more than just city-owned assets. It is ensuring that spaces are available for new businesses to open and that we are attracting and retaining residents. To that end, I am proud to have sponsored legislation, passed by Cleveland City Council, that makes available \$10 million to improve commercial corridors and rehabilitate homes, down to the studs and with modern features. This work will be done specifically in middle-class neighborhoods like West Park, which can get lost in the mix and overlooked, despite being stable with strong tax bases. This legislation is a significant step forward for the city and shows an acknowledgment of what we all know: that places like Ward 17 need and deserve investment. ■



GET IN THE SPOOKY MOOD



Alger Cemetery Walk

October 11 | 6pm

Meet in the municipal lot off of Albers Avenue.

Led by Ross Bassett of the West Park Historical Society, you will learn more about the history of West Park, its founders, and hear some spooky ghost stories!

Please make sure to wear comfortable shoes and bring a flashlight with you.



**CONTACT REBEKAH FERRO
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

rebekah@westparkkamms.org
216-252-6559 x1000



Christine Tanaka-Esposito, MD

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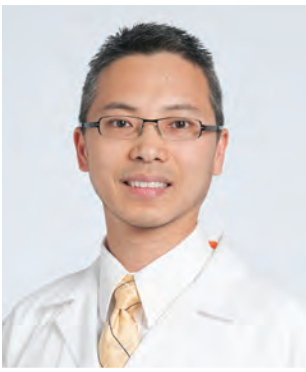
Thanks to its electrical system, your heart beats in an orderly and efficient way, circulating blood to your body. When something goes wrong with those electrical impulses, you may have an arrhythmia or abnormal heart rhythm.

"In some arrhythmias, the heart may beat too fast. In others, it may not beat in a regular pattern," says Christine Tanaka-Esposito, MD, a Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital cardiologist who specializes in electrophysiology – the specialized diagnosis and treatment of abnormal heart rhythms. "Testing and diagnosis can identify why there is an irregular rhythm, the type of arrhythmia and if it is a harmless or dangerous one."

One of the most common arrhythmias is atrial fibrillation (Afib), an irregular and rapid heart rhythm that leads to symptoms including fatigue, heart palpitations, trouble breathing and dizziness.

"Consulting an electrophysiologist can help pinpoint your issue and, if needed, determine the right treatment," says Roy Chung, MD, another electrophysiologist who treats patients at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital. "There are a variety of therapeutic options available, from medication combinations tailored to individual patients, or ablation to help restore normal heart rhythms."

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Tanaka-Esposito or Dr. Chung, please call 440.695.4000.



Roy Chung, MD

COMPLETE PEDIATRIC SURGERY AND RECOVERY AT CLEVELAND CLINIC FAIRVIEW HOSPITAL.



Jalal Abu-Shaweesh, MD

If your child ever needs surgery, it's comforting to know that surgery and recovery may take place at Fairview Hospital, where Cleveland Clinic Children's surgeons and specialists treat anatomic conditions, injuries and diseases unique to infants, children or adolescents.

Soon, the opening of a 4-bed intermediate care unit will make overnight stays following surgery a reality at Fairview.

"Many pediatric surgeries are done on an outpatient basis with the child going home the same day, but in some cases, overnight monitoring is needed. In the past, we transferred those children to main campus," says Jalal Abu-Shaweesh, MD, a neonatologist who also serves as the chair

of pediatrics at Fairview. "The intermediate care unit will allow as many as 50 percent of children who were previously transferred to remain at Fairview."

Along with post-surgery care, the intermediate care unit will allow for more frequent monitoring of vital signs and nursing intervention for children with medically complex conditions.

"It will enhance the level of pediatric services and allow us to do more elective surgeries at Fairview," adds Dr. Abu-Shaweesh.

To schedule an appointment at Cleveland Clinic Children's, call 216.444.KIDS (216.444.5437). To learn more, visit ClevelandClinic.org/FairviewPeds.



Senior Healthy Living Lunches

Learn how to Navigate:

- Financial and Asset Planning
- Home Repairs and Modifications
- Mental, Social and Emotional Healthy Living
- Quality of Life and Aging in Place Strategies

Lunch is Free!

Wed., Sept. 20 | 11:30am–1pm

West Park YMCA (15501 Lorain Ave)

Wed., Oct. 18 | 11:30am–1pm

Gunning Rec Center (16700 Puritas Ave)

Hosted by:



Space is limited, register in advance by contacting Rebekah Ferro.
Email: rebekah@westparkkamms.org | Phone: 216-252-6559 x1000



JOIN US FOR SOME FALL FUN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!



*Pick your own chestnuts at
Buckeye Chestnuts!
September 30th at 1 p.m.*

Pick chestnuts for free,
keep them for \$7 a pound.

Register here: bit.ly/chestnutswp
by **September 27.**



Buckeye Chestnut Farm
4555 Grayton Rd

BECOME A FRIEND!

Show your love for West Park Kamm's by supporting our annual Friends Campaign!

FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS, WPKND has been serving our residents and community. With your support, WPKND can continue to strengthen our neighborhood, with residents and businesses working together to help our neighborhood prosper.



The WPKND housing team connects with more than 300 residents per year to provide resources and support related to repair and utility assistance programs, sharing renovation financing tools, leading DIY workshops to teach residents how to fix their homes, and support aging in place. Through our Senior Home

Repair Program, which provides technical assistance, project and contractor management, and funding to seniors, we invested more than \$17,000 in 28 projects and hundreds of hours of staff time.



We are lucky to be home to more than 200 businesses in the West Park Kamm's area. Owning a business is hard work, and WPKND provides soup-to-nuts assistance for both existing businesses and those looking to make our neighborhood home. WPKND also focuses our work on guiding and supporting large-scale real

estate development and facilitating neighborhood infrastructure and planning projects that create better public spaces like the Old Lorain Connector Project. In 2022, WPKND was able to secure \$750,000 through Cuyahoga County to help make this project a reality in the coming years.



Finally, our work engages the community and brings people together through events like The Hooley, a street festival that celebrates the neighborhood and showcases our Kamm's Corners businesses, KCFM, Pop-Ups in the Parks, and others. From June through October, every Sunday, the Kamm's Corners Farmers Market is the gathering spot to meet neighbors, enjoy live music, learn more about health, wellness, and sustainability, and — most importantly — get fresh produce and local foods from some of the best farms and small food businesses in the region.

On behalf of the staff and board of West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development, we are thankful for your contribution!



Every dollar of your donation will support WPKND's mission and is a 100% tax-deductible gift!

Thank you for all you do for our community. Enclosed is my donation of: \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$_____

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Mail to: 17407 Lorain Avenue Suite 200, Cleveland, Ohio, 44111





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