

WEST PARK

MAGAZINE

WEST PARK KAMM'S NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT | HOLIDAY 2023



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See page 5

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The mission of West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development is to cultivate a neighborhood where the diverse needs of its people are met through community-building, stewardship, and development initiatives.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT

DEAR NEIGHBORS,

Thanksgiving is here and the holidays are quickly approaching. As our team reflects on 2023, we are grateful to be a part of the West Park community. West Park Kamm's is a place where residents and businesses care – they volunteer to plant gardens for neighbors, pick up trash, and give back to important causes. In West Park, neighbors show up — for The Hooley, Kamm's Corners Farmers Market, and Pop-Ups in the Park — to get to know one another and have fun together. Thank you to all who help keep West Park Kamm's a vibrant place to live, work, and play.

We invite you to celebrate community with us at our annual **Holiday Cheer** fundraiser on **Thursday, December 7 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.** Get in the holiday spirit while sipping beverages and enjoying hors d'oeuvres with neighbors and friends in the picturesque Rocky River Reservation. For more information on tickets, see page 5.

Of course, the holiday season would not be complete without our annual shop local plug — remember your independent and local businesses when you head out to shop this holiday season. Community support is critical to maintaining a thriving business district and ensuring local businesses remain strong. You can also shop small at our annual **Winter Market on Sunday, December 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with many of your favorite vendors in attendance including local meat and produce farms.** Bring the whole family for photos with Santa, crafts, and live music. Stay and watch the Browns game at one of Kamm's Corners local bars. Check out page 5 for all the details.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season!

Rosemary Mudry | Executive Director

Susan P. Blankenship | Board President

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West Park Design Contest Winner: Caroline Hilber

By Molly Crawford

This past spring, WPKND called on West Parkers to make a t-shirt design inspired by West Park in our first West Park T-Shirt Design Contest. Eight West Parkers submitted their designs and Caroline Hilber's design rose to the top as the winning design. Growing up in Lakewood, Hilber spent a lot of time hanging out in West Park with her friends. The friendly atmosphere of the bars here drew her in and she knew that she eventually wanted to move here herself. She briefly left Cleveland to attend Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania, however she never forgot about West Park.

In 2013 she purchased her house on Fernway Avenue. Not long after, in 2016 she started her own graphic design and photography business. She had always planned on starting her own business

but was really pushed to do it when she was laid off from her job. "I was really nervous, but it felt like every sign was telling me to start my own thing. Sometimes life pushes you to do something sooner than you had planned." When she heard about the design contest, she was eager to throw her hat in the ring. She used her brother, a graphic t-shirt buff, as her sounding board for her design. "I was constantly asking him; would you wear this?" Ultimately, he was a big fan. Hilber said a common question she gets is whether she hides something in her designs as a signature, and for this design she did! The clock is set to 8:15 because that is her birthday.

You can view some of Hilber's other work at www.carolinehilber.com. If you want to purchase one of the shirts for yourself, they will be available at our



Caroline Hilber wearing the winning design.

Winter Market on Sunday, December 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or email molly@westparkkamms.org. ■

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Celebrate the beginning of the holiday season while supporting West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development at the Grille and Terrace at Big Met. Join us for delicious hors d'oeuvres, unlimited drinks, AND fun and exciting basket raffles that support a great cause. Plus, every guest takes home a West Park themed dessert to end a festively fun evening!

West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development has been serving Ward 17 for over 40 years. Our programs include the Hooley, Kamm's Corners Farmers Market, Pop-Ups in the Parks, senior home repair, small business assistance, public art and more.

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Style Mutt Celebrates 10 Years of Keeping West Park Pooches Looking Stylish

By Rebekah Ferro

When it comes to pets, there are certainly a large number of furry friends all over West Park, especially dogs! Style Mutt on Warren Rd. has been dedicated to keeping the pups of West Park looking their best for 10 years. Style Mutt specializes in dog grooming and doggy daycare. With a dedicated team of staff and stylists, owner Pam Alerine works hard to ensure that every dog is treated with love, given the best care, and looks their best when they leave her store.

Style Mutt originally opened its doors in Rocky River in 2007, but when Pam bought a house in West Park after downsizing from Avon Lake, the former executive director of West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development, Steve Lorenz, helped her move her business here as well. He connected Pam with Growth Capital Corp., a small business loan provider, and got her on her way to establishing her business in West Park. They chose to purchase the highly visible building at 3525 Warren Rd, at the intersection of Warren Rd and Munn Rd. WPKND (known then as Kamm's Corners Development Corp.) helped Pam with her business plan and getting everything signed and approved. Pam purchased the building for her store in July



2013, and her community of customers has grown ever since.

On top of grooming and daycare services, Style Mutt also has a wide selection of toys, treats, outfits, and other goodies for dogs and their owners. Pam keeps her Facebook page up to date with her latest offerings of holiday-themed items. She also keeps her social media up to date with videos of the daily shenanigans and cute antics of the dogs in her daycare either lining up to get treats

or enjoying time outside in the fenced-in backyard of her shop. She also likes to take pictures of the four-legged customers who come to her store looking to buy a treat!

Pam attributes the success of Style Mutt to the fact that either she or her partner, Michael, are always there. They know each of their customers and dogs by name. She also attributes their success to their talented, friendly, and professional groomers who work hard to make sure all dogs who come to their shop leave happy and look their best. Pam is also involved in the rescue community and is on the board of The Rescue Inn, an "Ohio non-profit, foster-based rescue organization dedicated to saving the lives of dogs in need," which is also celebrating its 10th Anniversary. We thank Pam for her years of dedication and care as a business owner of West Park and wish her many more years of success! If you would like to visit Style Mutt, they are open Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you would like to schedule a grooming appointment for your dog, you can call 440-409-0454 during business hours. ■

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Red Lantern Reopens Under New Ownership as a Japanese Restaurant

By Molly Crawford

The Red Lantern has been revived yet again. The storied Kamm's Plaza restaurant reopened in August to the delight of locals as a Japanese eatery. The new owners of Red Lantern were familiar with the area already, as they have owned the Dragon Towers Chinese Restaurant two doors down since 2016. The new concept for Red Lantern was under development for two years before the restaurant reopened. Owners Ying and Sam wanted to make sure that they took their time in perfecting the concept, and a large part of that was finding qualified and capable staff.

One such person was their sushi chef, who has more than 12 years of experience in sushi, having previously worked at Pacific East Japanese Restaurant on the east side. The menu has a wide variety of dishes to choose



from, including sushi and sashimi rolls, ramen, hibachi, bento boxes, and more. Ying emphasized the quality of the ingredients and the dishes; many of them she regularly makes at home and serves to her family. The restaurant also offers a full bar, including

liquor, wine, sake, and domestic as well as Chinese and Japanese beers. The Red Lantern is open Tuesday through Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. for dine-in, carry-out, and delivery. Call 216-331-5099 or visit redlantern88kamm.com for more information. ■

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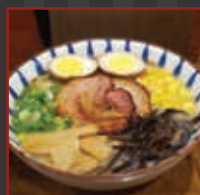
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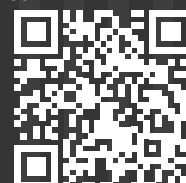
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West Park Animal Hospital's New Building Opening This Fall

by Molly Crawford

West Park Animal Hospital is wrapping up construction on its new building, located on the same lot that it currently occupies at 4117 Rocky River Drive. The new structure greatly expands capacity, with 35,000 square feet of space spread over two stories.

The second story will largely cater to cats, allowing for a quieter and more stress-free environment for feline patients. Keeping pets safe is central to other additions, such as separate entrances for highly contagious diseases and ample hospitalization wards that allow the hospital to separate different illnesses and minimize exposure. Other upgrades include a CT scanner, an underwater treadmill used for physical



New kennels at West Park Animal Hospital



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therapy, a therapeutic laser, an endoscope and upgraded x-ray machines. The second floor will also house a rescue ward where rescued animals will be housed and treated.

To round out the new spaces, the new building will have a bereavement room dedicated to helping pets at end of life along peacefully, as well as a large conference room where they

plan to hold workshops and classes that allow for them to offer educational resources to the public. The new building is expected to open before the end of the year. ■



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New Facility Rendering

Bees and Trees:

Sowing Seeds of Community and Sustainability in Ward 17

by Emily Pikturna

West Park Pollinator Pathways had its second planting day on September 28, 2023! Volunteers planted four additional pollinator gardens in Ward 17, enhancing our community's sustainability and biodiversity. A group of eight students from Hasani Management joined our efforts as well. This non-profit organization has dedicated itself to uplifting and empowering youth with special needs, focusing on overcoming barriers and enhancing the lives of the underserved through various enriching activities. We were happy to welcome them and thank them for their hard work!

Just like the spring planting, the Green Team worked with residents to remove areas of their grass lawns and incorporate compost and install native plants. The initiative's main goal is to provide essential shelter and food for local pollinators. The underlying goal of this gardening project extends beyond planting; it urges Ward 17 residents to reimagine their relationships with their lawns. Although traditional, monoculture lawns present a neat appearance,



their ecological significance is minimal, and their maintenance can be carbon-intensive due to the regular mowing, fertilization, and irrigation, often supported by gasoline and fossil fuels.

In contrast, embracing alternative landscaping options like rain gardens,

pollinator gardens, and native grasses not only proves to be more carbon-efficient but also comes with the added advantage of carbon sequestration. Furthermore, these alternatives usually require less maintenance, which means fewer emissions and a lower environmental footprint.

The momentum for a greener community doesn't stop there. Through the Cuyahoga County Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program, WPKND received funding to plant 75 new trees. 60 trees will be planted at Riverside Park, in collaboration with Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority. The other 15 are designated for streets around the Clara E. Westropp Elementary School area, and we are seeking residents interested in receiving a shade tree in their yard. Aimed at increasing the tree canopy along well-traveled sidewalks, we aspire to create a cooler, more pleasant journey for students traveling to and from school.

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in their yard! By initiating and leading tree-planting projects within your block, you not only enhance the aesthetic and air quality of the neighborhood but also strengthen community spirit. Stay tuned for further details, as exact dates and tree species for the upcoming tree distribution are coming soon. Meanwhile, we encourage you to engage your neighbors and encourage them to get involved.

Collective endeavors of this nature are not merely environmentally beneficial but also serve to instill unity and pride among community members. Both individually and collectively, the community of Ward 17 and its surroundings wield the power to carve out an environmentally friendly path, making a substantial impact! If you have any questions about planting a tree, starting a pollinator garden, or getting involved with the West Park Green Team, contact Emily Pikturna (emily@westparkkamms.org). ■

In addition to that project, this spring, in partnership with FirstEnergy, we are excited to announce a tree distribution program in Ward 17. Aiming to rejuvenate our urban tree canopy, 100 trees

will be distributed to our residents. However, the success of this initiative hinges on community involvement! We need your help to encourage your friends and neighbors to plant a tree

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WPKND and Oberlin College Students Paint Long-time Resident's Garage

By CJ Demchak

Each year, in mid-August, Oberlin College partners with WPKND to organize a day of service for incoming first-year students. In the past, students have helped with neighborhood clean-ups, but this year the perfect project arose — a garage door that just needed a coat of paint. Mr. Balogh reached out to our office in early summer and asked for some help painting his garage door. At 88 years old, he has owned his home for more than 60 years and is the first and only owner the home has ever had. As a boy, Mr. Balogh and his friends would ride the streetcar all the way out to West Park, and he fell in love with the area. So, in May of 1963, when he was engaged to be married, he returned to West Park and met with a local builder — hoping to have the house done in time for the October wedding.

When WPKND first went out to look at the project, Mr. Balogh commented on how garage doors just aren't made like his anymore, being that it is original to his 1963 ranch. The all-wood door with rectangular windows and classic 1960s trim along with the man door was



a little more than just a simple paint job, but with WPKND staff alongside 16 Oberlin volunteers there were plenty of hands to help and the students split into smaller groups to tackle other projects around the exterior of his home. Maintaining his beautifully landscaped

yard has become more challenging over the years, so students also helped weed flower beds and clean-up the yard. The students also had time to paint the lamppost out front and trim the hedges. For many of the volunteers, this was their first-time painting, and they were happy to do some good and learn a new life skill. When Mr. Balogh was asked what he thought about the project, he said, "Those kids did a wonderful job. I'm so grateful." ■



Imagine West Park: Public Art Initiative *By Molly Crawford*

West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development is excited to introduce a new program entitled Imagine West Park. Imagine West Park is a public art program, but it is more than art for art's sake. It is a placemaking and community engagement process that acknowledges the varied experiences of all West Parkers. The project will celebrate the history and diversity of neighborhood and instill beauty and pride of place throughout the community.

The initial phase of the program is made up of three different projects, Murals on Main Street, Upgrading the Ordinary, and the Mini-Muralist Youth Education Program.



Murals on Main Street is a project that seeks to establish two murals that are expressions of what West Park as a neighborhood embodies as well as the character of the residents.

Upgrading the Ordinary consists

of ten utility box wraps that embodies the spirit of the neighborhood and/or the character of the residents by local artists.

The Mini-Muralist Youth Education Project invites ten middle to high-school-aged children who will be selected through an application process to participate in an after-school arts program taking place at Riverside Park. Participants who complete the program will be paid a stipend for their time. The murals and utility box wraps are expected to be installed next summer. If you are interested in being involved in Imagine West Park, visit westparkkams.org/publicart. ■

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(216) 941-4144

Grayton Smoke & Cigar

4760 Grayton Rd
(216) 417-6889

SPECIALTY FOOD STORES

K & K Portage Market

3364 Warren Rd
(216) 941-0288

La Plaza Supermarket

13609 Lakewood Heights Blvd
(216) 476-8000

Seven Seas Seafoods

15725 Lorain Ave
(216) 941-1359

SPECIALTY STORES

Carol and John's Comic Book Shop

17462 Lorain Ave
(216) 252-0606

Crown Rubber Stamp & Office Supply Co

17109 Lorain Ave
(216) 251-3272

Imagine That and More

3756 Rocky River Dr
(216) 417-1155

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17025 Lorain Ave
(440) 315-0357

Re-Cycler Appliances

16850 Lorain Ave
(216) 210-6099

Rocking Mobility

17472 Lorain Ave
(216) 356-6984

Starship Earth

16880 Lorain Ave
(216) 251-1444

The Mud Room Pottery Studio

16848 Lorain Ave
(216) 379-4967

Warzone-Matrix

4704 Rocky River Dr
(216) 433-1316

West Park Nutrition

3762 Rocky River Dr
(216) 463-5455

Make this Your Last Chilly Winter: Home Weatherization Assistance Program

By CJ Demchak

The Home Weatherization Assistance Program, or HWAP, is one of the best assistance programs available to Cleveland residents — and with winter coming it's one of the most frequently asked about. The goal of the weatherization program is energy efficiency; meaning, the less you use the less you pay. This federally funded program is meant for seniors and disabled folks (both homeowners and renters) at or below \$29,160 for a single-person household, or \$39,440 for a two-person household. The application is processed through Cleveland Housing Network and takes around 6-8 weeks to see the work completed.

Once a community member has been accepted, a weatherization technician will reach out to schedule an initial inspection. During this inspection, the tech will look at the biggest potential energy drains in the home, such as the furnace, refrigerator, and hot water system. If any of those devices are outdated, or no longer Energy Star compliant, they are replaced at no charge to the



homeowner. The inspector will also use an infrared camera to check for areas where insulation may be needed. This could be as simple as weather stripping for a leaky door, or maybe foam insulation in the walls. They'll also replace leaky faucets, running toilets, and even change old incandescent bulbs for more efficient LEDs. As with most as-

sistance programs, the application can be quite involved. WPKND's community engagement specialist is available to help get the necessary documentation together, make copies, and ensure that the application successfully arrives at CHN Housing Partners. Contact our specialist at cj@westparkkamms.org or call (216) 252-6559 x1300. ■



Holiday Boutique

Young's Art Center

22084 Lorain Rd, Fairview Park, Ohio 44126
www.YoungsArtCenter.com
 216 370 2414

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by Appointment

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|--|---|
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| 23040 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake 440-331-0999 | |
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IN NEED OF HOME REPAIRS?

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SEE PAGES 18-19

KAMMS EST. PLAZA 1961

WHERE NEIGHBORS GO TO SHOP AND EAT

Happy Holidays

COMPLIMENTARY SLEIGH RIDES!



VISITS FROM MR. & MRS. CLAUS EACH NIGHT!

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| December 1st | 6:00p.m. - 8:00pm |
| December 8th | 4:00p.m. - 8:00pm |
| December 15th | 6:00p.m. - 8:00pm |



December 8th

- ✦ OLA 100 Year Celebration!
- ✦ Sleigh Rides Start at 4:00p.m.
- ✦ Custom Ice Cream Flavor!

- ✦ Sleigh rides depart from the tower corner below H&R Block sign.
- ✦ Note! Inclement weather (heavy rain or ice) will stop the sleigh rides.

 **Dine**

 **Shop**

 **Enjoy!**

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Carol & John's Comic Shop
Chase Bank
City Star Nails
Clarkson Eyecare
Cleveland Therapy

Dollar Tree
Dragon Towers
Express Phone Repair
Fitness 19
Gene's Place Restaurant
H&R Block
Imagine That Designs & More
Kamms Barber Shop

Kamm's Corners Ice Cream Co.
Marc's
MJ Morgan Group
Mr. Hero
Peace, Love & Little Donuts
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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. |
| 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

Kamm's Plaza and Our Lady of Angels School Team Up to Celebrate Community this December

by Molly Crawford

Kamm's Plaza and Our Lady of Angels School are bringing back a lost tradition this year as part of the Plaza's Christmas celebrations. When Lisa Kay, the property manager for Kamm's Plaza, was first hired into her role in 1997, she set out to find a way to engage with and give back to the West Park community. Because of its proximity to the Plaza, Kay initiated conversations with Our Lady of Angels School and set out to find a fun and fulfilling way to connect the students there with the broader public. Thus, a tradition was born.

Kay and the OLA art teacher at the time developed a plan. Students were invited to Kamm's Plaza to paint all the storefront windows in the entire plaza. To make it more fun and festive, Kay partnered with one of the tenants to host Santa in front of their store. This

proved to be a popular pairing, and so they did it again the next year. While painting the store windows was fun and engaging, the cleanup process proved to be challenging, so after a few years, the students switched to creating posters for stores to hang in their windows instead. This proved to be the fun and engaging experience that Kay was aiming for, as the kids were so excited to see their artwork displayed to the community. The festivities surrounding the art also continued to grow, adding sleigh rides to the events, as well as prize giveaways, and an annual party thrown at an empty storefront in the Plaza. All of this was offered to the community for free, a way for Kamm's Plaza to thank the public for patronizing its businesses and introduce community members to the Plaza. The tradition continued for 20 years, and for its 20th anniversa-



Posing with Santa at Kamm's Plaza 1998

ry, they decided to go out with a bang. The prizes and festivities were bigger and better than ever, and with that, the Plaza ended its annual tradition. That is until last year.

Mr. Guggenbiller, a teacher at OLA, had been brainstorming ways to get



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his students more involved with and immersed in the community. His mind turned towards the Plaza, and he contacted Kay about working with her business, Kamm's Corners Ice Cream Company to do an ice cream creation contest with his students. Kids would be invited to create their own ice cream flavor and recipe, and the winning flavor would be brought to life by the Ice Cream Company. This collaboration was a huge hit with OLA students and the broader community. It also brought back memories for Kay and OLA staff who were OLA students when the event began, and talks began about bringing the artwork element back. And it was perfect timing, with OLA School celebrating its 100th anniversary this school year.

For the revived version of the tradition, Kay elected to call on the Kamm's Plaza business community for help. She contacted Carol and John's Comic Book Shop about working with an artist to develop a poster that the kids could color and decorate so that those could



Mr. and Mrs. Claus with a helper 2000



Bell carolers 2001

then be hung in the storefront windows around the Plaza. Kevin Monohan answered the call and developed a drawing that celebrates the 100th anniversary of the school and all the history that it entails. Students are now hard at work, preparing for their exhibition at the Plaza, as well as developing their ice cream flavors for the second annual ice cream contest. Kamm's Plaza, which still offers free sleigh rides and pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus throughout December every year, is designating December 8th as OLA 100th Anniversa-

ry Celebration night. That evening the festivities will begin early at 4 p.m. and run through 8 p.m. As part of the fun, the winning ice cream flavor from the contest will be available for free to anyone who wants to try it.

Our Lady of Angels School 100th Anniversary celebrations will continue through the rest of the school year, including an open house that is open to the community on January 21 from noon to 2 p.m. Stay tuned to the school's website for more details about upcoming events. ■

Our Lady of Angels 100th Anniversary Celebration



KAMMS
EST. **PLAZA** 1961

WHERE NEIGHBORS GO TO SHOP AND EAT

December 8th
4-8 p.m.

Kamms Plaza
Shopping Center
would like to
WISH OLA School
many more
years to come!

Congratulations on Celebrating Your Centenary

Train Display at Puritas Nursery Celebrates 20th Anniversary

By Molly Crawford

It all started as a way to attract customers during the cold winter months. “A garden supplier of mine suggested it as a way to get people in the door,” and that was all it took to convince Dale Heyink, owner of Puritas Nursery and a lifelong train enthusiast of the idea. It began with one display and has grown over the past two decades to include three different displays and three different scales (sizes) of trains. The displays are designed and built from scratch each year by just eight volunteers, changing and growing with every iteration. They take the better part of two months to complete, with work beginning in September every year.

The first display is the HO gauge train display which is designed by Chief Engineer Dan Gryczan, a model railroad enthusiast. The 8'x30' table that this lay-



HO gauge layout

out sits on is landscaped with live plants and functional water features, even featuring a mini Puritas Nursery! This display includes three train routes and two

trolleys that wind their way through the foliage and scenery. This display also includes a Disney-themed train that is always popular with the kids.



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Lionel O gauge layouts

The second display is the G scale (Garden scale) display. This is the largest scale of the three train types and features seven cars that explore several themed sets including Jurassic Park, Star Wars, a circus set, and a western set. The third display is the Lionel O gauge display designed by Mark Gombar, Dave Powers, and Dave Craven. This display sits on a 7'x30' table and features five

rail loops that are explored by ten trains. The scenery for this display winds from urban to rural and embraces the season with wintry scenes as well.

The displays are open to the public the day after Thanksgiving every year and are available to view through New Year's Eve. Admission to view the train is free, though donations are accepted, and photography is welcome. The

nursery will also have a wide array of poinsettias, house plants, gardening supplies, and holiday gifts available for purchase as well. Puritas Nursery is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. They will close at 3 p.m. on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. For more information about the displays, visit puritasnursery.com. ■



We Wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!


Puritas Nursery Holiday Trains 20th Anniversary!
Come celebrate with us! November 24 - December 31
Note! We will be closing at 3 p.m. December 24 & December 31.

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Beth Israel – The West Temple Celebrates Installation of Ohio History Marker

By Molly Crawford



Former activist and refusenik from the USSR, Eti Ganin addresses the attendees of the celebration.

On Sunday, October 22 the community of Beth Israel – The West Temple convened for a ceremony honoring the installation of a long-awaited Ohio History Marker that now sits in front of their Temple on Triskett Road. Rabbi Emerita, Enid Lader reminisced on the road they took to get to that point in her speech to the

attendees. The Temple first applied and was approved for the history marker in 2019, a cause for great celebration as they were one of 27 projects approved out of over 70 applications. The copy for the marker was written and sent off to the foundry that makes all the history markers, however, the pandemic quickly closed the foundry, and the Temple



was left in limbo along with the rest of the world. Years passed and the world slowly recovered, until August of 2023 when the marker was finally installed.

The marker, titled “A Modern-Day Exodus” celebrates and honors the Cleveland Council on Soviet Anti-Semitism, which was founded in 1963 by three members of The West Temple, Louis Rosenblum, Herb Caron, and Rabbi Daniel Litt. This Council was founded after a social action committee studying the Holocaust set out to research and identify other endangered Jewish communities. The plight of Jews in the Soviet Union became their focus and led to the resettlement of 10,000 Soviet Jews within Cleveland alone. By the late 1960s, other local advocacy groups centered around the issue sprung up around the country, and so in 1970, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews was created, with Beth Israel – The West Temple serving as its headquarters. The Union became the largest grassroots Soviet Jewry advocacy organization in the world. The marker was sponsored by Beth Israel-The West Temple, the Western Reserve Historical Society, and the Jewish Federation of Cleveland. View the marker virtually at www.sovietjewryarchives.org/news/historical-marker. ■



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Welcome to Joe Dill: WPKND's New Director of Neighborhood Development

By Joe Dill



Greetings! My name is Joe Dill and I am very excited to be joining the team at WPKND as the Director of Neighborhood Development. I recently purchased a home just east of West Park and am looking forward to becoming more invested in the area through my new role. Previously, I was the Director of Operations

for a small real estate development firm on the near west side of Cleveland. I am eager to continue to build on my knowledge of real estate and community development to further establish West Park as a destination neighborhood for residents and visitors alike. In my free time you can find me on a bike, at a campground, or working on DIY projects at my place. I hope to meet many of you soon around the neighborhood — say hello if we cross paths! ■

Farewell to Ben Campbell: WPKND's Long-time Director of Economic Development

By Molly Crawford



WPKND's longtime staff member Ben Campbell has left the organization for new things. Campbell's relationship with West Park began in 2001 when he and his family first moved here. When, in 2014, Campbell got the chance to join the team of what was then Kamm's Corners Development Corporation, he

jumped at the chance. At the time of his departure, Campbell was the Director of Economic Development. When reflecting on his tenure, he said "I cherish the opportunity to work in the neighborhood where I live and raised my family." WPKND would like to sincerely thank Campbell for his hard work over the many years he spent here and extend our best wishes for the future. ■

FRIENDS OF WPKND

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

With you, WPKND can continue to strengthen our neighborhood, carrying on the strong history of residents and businesses coming together to see their neighborhood prosper. For more than 40 years, WPKND has been serving our residents and our community.

Your tax-deductible donation helps continue programming and events like the Kamm's Corners Farmers Market, Pop-ups in the Parks, The Hooley™, and Explore West Park Walks. Together we can support our most vulnerable residents by assisting seniors in our community through the senior home repair program and connecting those in need to the resources essential to their well-being. By helping existing businesses to thrive and fostering new business growth, we can ensure our commercial corridors have a vibrant future.

On behalf of the staff and board of West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development, we are thankful for your contribution! You can donate online at bit.ly/loveWPKND, QR code, or mail back the form below!



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



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\$50

EMAIL: _____

\$100

\$ _____

Make checks payable to: West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development, 17407 Lorain Avenue Suite 200, Cleveland, Ohio, 44111

Middle Neighborhoods Receiving City Funding for Improvements

by Councilman Charles Slife



In recent years, some of Cleveland's neighborhoods have seen surges in new development. At the same time, other neighborhoods have continued to face serious challenges. Yet, many neighborhoods exist somewhere in between these two extremes. Their populations are stable, neither booming nor declining. Home values are increasing, and homes sell quickly but often need various updates. Small businesses are strong, yet retail vacancies persist.

These *middle neighborhoods*, like

West Park, are the focus of a new program that is supported by legislation sponsored by me as well as an allocation from the State of Ohio capital budget.

Alongside community partners, the City of Cleveland will be injecting \$10.3 million into middle neighborhoods across Cleveland for residential, retail, and public space improvements. The bulk of the funding will go to residential rehabilitation projects. Homes will be purchased and undergo gut renovations. With improvements like new amenities and open design concepts, new buyers will be able to get a modern home without needing to leave Cleveland for a suburb.

Dollars will also fund the renovation and "white boxing" of empty retail

space. This will make spaces move-in ready and help attract small businesses who are interested in choosing neighborhoods like West Park, without having to go through the time and expense of making required improvements. Public space dollars will support retail uses by making streetscape and other design improvements that will attract foot traffic.

Too often I hear from people who love West Park but end up in the suburbs because our neighborhood has too few updated homes and small business opportunities. Through this middle neighborhoods program, Cleveland aims to strategically invest in neighborhoods with a strong base to ensure they can continue to have a vibrant future. ■

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Anokha Padubidri, MD

Fairview Hospital Trauma Center: Fracture and trauma injury care on the West Side.

We don't plan for serious injuries. No one ever wants them to happen. But when they do, the caregivers at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital's Emergency Department (ED) and Trauma Center are ready to care for your serious, sudden injuries like fractures and other trauma injuries.

"Our team at the Trauma Center treats a wide range of fractures from high-energy open fractures to low-energy osteoporotic fractures. We even have a fragility fracture liaison service for geriatric fractures," says Anokha Padubidri, MD, an orthopaedic surgeon at Fairview Hospital.

When patients come to the ED, they typically have an x-ray to confirm an acute fracture or other traumatic injury.

Dr. Padubidri says common injuries seen at the Trauma Center often result from:

- Motor vehicle accidents.
- Sporting mishaps.
- Falls.

"Depending on the severity of the injury, patients are either admitted to the hospital for an inpatient stay or scheduled for outpatient follow-up or various forms of therapy," explains Dr. Padubidri.

Treatment options for fractures and acute injuries can include:

- Surgery.
- Non-surgery: splint, cast, brace, sling or physical therapy.

Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital is the only Level II Trauma Center on Cleveland's West Side. This designation ensures that each member of the trauma team, along each step in the recovery process, is ready and able to provide high-level care to our patients.

"You'll receive the best outcome possible because our caregivers are specifically trained in trauma management," says Dr. Padubidri.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Padubidri or another Cleveland Clinic orthopaedic surgeon, call 216.444.2606

LUNG CANCER: NOT JUST A SMOKER'S DISEASE.



Abdo Haddad, MD

Did you know that if you don't smoke – or even if you quit smoking years ago – there's a chance you may still develop lung cancer?

"Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States," explains Abdo Haddad, MD, an oncologist who treats patients at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital, Avon Hospital, Richard E. Jacobs Health Center at Richard E. Jacobs Campus and Lutheran Hospital. "The American Lung Association says smoking contributes to 80% and 90% of lung cancer deaths in women and men, respectively; however, lung cancer is a disease that can affect anyone."

Other risk factors include breathing in secondhand smoke, exposure to asbestos or radon, or a family history of lung cancer.

Those at a high risk should consider having a low-dose CT scan to screen for lung cancer

if they meet the following criteria: 50 to 80 years old, have a 20-pack per year smoking history, and currently smoke or have quit within the last 15 years. Screening may help detect lung cancer early, which makes treatment and curing it easier.

"There are two types of lung cancer: non-small cell and small cell. Non-small cell is more common and usually grows and spreads more slowly," says Dr. Haddad. "Depending on the type and stage, treatment options may include surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy or clinical trials."

Even if you don't use tobacco products, talk with your doctor to determine if screening may be beneficial for you.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Haddad or another oncologist, call 216.986.4555.



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There are a lot of steps between conceiving, carrying and cradling your baby. No matter what stage of motherhood you're in, our team at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital will be there every step of the way. When it's time to welcome your baby into the world, we will accommodate your preferences and needs, whether it be the traditional approach for low, medium and high-risk deliveries in the birthing center, or natural childbirth with minimal intervention in the Family Birth Place. From labor and delivery, to recovery and postpartum care. For every care in the world.

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