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MAGAZINE

WEST PARK KAMM'S NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT | SPRING 2024



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West Park Magazine is published quarterly by West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development for Ward 17. Special thank you to our advertisers for their support. Online version can be found at westparkkamms.org.

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DEAR NEIGHBORS

Spring is here and with it brings all the changes of a new season. The season of change is especially being felt around our offices after the departure of Rosemary Mudry, former Executive Director of WPKND. While it is sad to see her go, we are looking forward to what Rosemary accomplishes as the Executive Director for the newly formed nonprofit Cleveland Public Market Corporation, which now manages the West Side Market. We highlight some of the progress and success WPKND experienced under Rosemary's leadership on page 30, but one thing worth saying more than once is "thank you." Thank you for all you did for our organization, our community, and our city, and we wish you all the best on your next adventure.

Spring also brings the return of colors to trees and plants, an end to hibernation, and weather that allows everyone to gather outside with their friends and neighbors again. Soon the Farmer's Market will be back in full swing, and we'll be gearing up to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Hooley. Our team is also busy coordinating the planting of seventy-five new trees in the neighborhood thanks to support from the Cuyahoga County Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program. Watch for the installation of new public art in the form of murals and utility box wraps along Lorain Avenue courtesy of funding from the CDC Leadership Program. We're grateful to our many community partners who allow us to beautify our neighborhood in ways that will provide color and vibrancy throughout the year.

The warmer weather is a great reason for you to tackle routine maintenance tasks around your home and start thinking about exterior projects on your to-do list. On page 24, we share some helpful tips and hints to make sure your home is ready for summer and beyond. Reach out to our team to learn more about our Senior Home Repair Program and other resources available to homeowners to assist in making improvements around the house more manageable.

New businesses continue to sprout and expand around the neighborhood. As you start to ditch the winter jackets and explore more outside, don't forget to support the many local businesses that call West Park Kamm's home. You might find a few new favorites that have popped up since this time last year.

We're excited to see everyone out and about around the community again this season. **Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for the West Park Kamm's Annual Town Hall meeting on Thursday, April 25th at Saint Joseph Academy.** There is a lot to recap from the past year and look forward to in the new, so we hope to see you there!

Joe Dill | Interim Executive Director

Susan P. Blankenship | Board President

WEST PARK KAMM'S STAFF

JOE DILL
Interim Executive Director
joe@westparkkamms.org | x1200

REBEKAH FERRO
Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator;
Kamm's Corners Farmers Market Manager
rebekah@westparkkamms.org | x1000

MOLLY CRAWFORD
Director of Community Development
molly@westparkkamms.org | x1500

CJ DEMCHAK
Healthy Homes Initiative -
Community Engagement Specialist
cj@westparkkamms.org | x1300

EMILY PIKTURNA
Sustainability & Food Access -
AmeriCorps VISTA
emily@westparkkamms.org

ALLISON WOODS
Neighborhood Development Manager
allison@westparkkamms.org | x1700



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WPKND Hosting Annual Town Hall on April 25th at Saint Joseph Academy

By Molly Crawford

West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development is excited to host our Annual Town Hall event on April 25, 2024. Community leaders including Councilman Slife, as well as WPKND's Executive Director and Board President will discuss highlights of the past year in addition to sharing the results of our work as an organization. WPKND will also



hand out our annual community awards at the event. The event will be held in the gymnasium of Saint Joseph Academy and will begin at 6 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided. Join us to learn more about our work as well as celebrate our community award winners!

Let us know you can make it by using the QR code! ■

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West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development sends sincere gratitude to our incredible sponsors. **Your generosity ensures that the funds raised at events like Holiday Cheer directly contribute to the success of our diverse programs.** Whether it's providing crucial housing repairs, supporting local businesses, or bringing the community together through events like the Hooley and Kamm's Corners Farmers Market, your commitment to our cause is truly making a lasting impact. Thank you for being the backbone of our community initiatives.

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Welcome WPKND's New Neighborhood Development Manager

By Allison Woods

Hello everyone! My name is Allison Woods, and I am so excited to be joining WPKND as the new Neighborhood Development Manager. As a West Park resident myself, I am passionate about exploring new and creative ways to improve our neighborhood. My previous position with University Settlement as their Adult Wellness Program Manager allowed me to gain experience in community engagement, program development, and relationship building with both area businesses and residents. On the weekends, you may find me playing music at 5 Points Coffee & Tea, cheering on one of Cleveland's sports teams, or taking a walk around the neighborhood with my wife Taylor and our dog Zelda. Looking forward to working with all of you to make a difference in our community! ■



Allison on left, Taylor on right and Zelda right in the middle.



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Horizon is Helping Westropp Students Learn, Explore, and be the Best They Can Be

By Rebekah Ferro

In the Fall 2022 issue of the *West Park Magazine*, WPKND announced that we had been awarded a 21st Century Community Learning Grant in partnership with Horizon Education Centers. This five-year grant has funded an after-school and summer program for students at Clara E Westropp for the last two years. The program currently has sixty-four students who come to the after-school program, which covers a multitude of programming and subjects including math, reading and literacy, social and emotional skills, leadership skills, and the arts. Students are given access to tutoring, field trips, an after-school snack, and engaging programming through the various partners of the after-school program.

Partnerships with outside organizations provide new learning opportunities and experiences for the students. Common Ground offers social and emotional learning skills through games, sessions, and conversations. Students learn how to cooperate, share their emotions in a healthy and meaning-

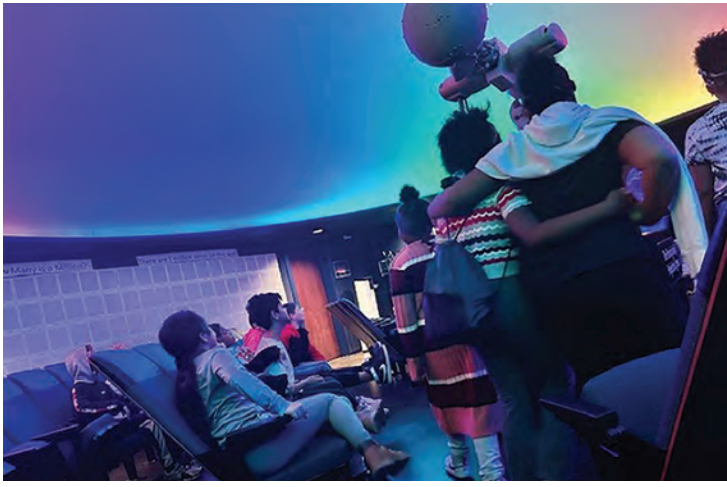


Art House encourages creativity

ful way, and grow to be better version of themselves. Effective Leadership Academy teaches students skills such as time management, public speaking, goal setting, and problem solving with

the goal to help them succeed in their future academic careers and beyond. Daily Dose of Reading provides the younger students with an intensive early literacy program where reading, singing, activities, and play are all used for pre-literacy skill training. Students are given books to take home along with accompanying activities for parents and students to complete together. Art House teaches self-exploration and expression through the arts. Students are encouraged to use their imagination to create, make connections, and explore the world around them. From making bracelets to creating new creatures from their imaginations, Art House allows students to experience the world around them through the lens of art.

On top of the partnerships and tutoring to assist students with what they learn throughout the school day, this program also allows opportunities for the teachers and tutors to fill gaps in learning they may come across. Since the curriculum is flexible, spontaneous curiosities can lead to new topics for learning. Recently, Site Coordinator Erin Joyce noticed the students did not know much about the solar system and



planets. This led to lessons about space and the planets, and even a field trip to the planetarium. The student learning experience is focused on what their educational needs are, what their interests are, and what will inspire them to continue learning.

Families are also encouraged to get involved with the 21st Century Community Learning Center program through family nights which occur once a month. These family nights cover different topics for both students and parents, including

high school enrollment options through high school fairs and financial literacy. They also promote family togetherness and having fun through game nights and other activities the whole family can enjoy. These family nights also encourage parents to take an active role in their child's education and offer an opportunity for families to learn together.

The 21st Century Community Learning Center Program continues to connect the students at Clara E Westropp with tools and programming that will

Left: a trip to the Planetarium; above: a Common Ground activity

assist in their development, growth, and skills that they will carry with them through the rest of their academic careers and beyond. WPKND is proud of our involvement with this program and would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of Erin Joyce, Sherri Perez, and all the other teachers, tutors, and partners who are working hard to change the lives of these students and their families. ■



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All Things Spring

By Councilman Charles Slife



Sunnier and warmer days are coming soon and like you, I'm excited to open the windows, head outside, and talk to neighbors. However, our most dreaded season still sits between us and summertime fun: pothole season.

Once again, my office will be manag-

ing the Ward 17 Pothole Tracker, which we use to receive reports of potholes, communicate with the Department of Public Works, and monitor the progress of getting potholes filled. Remember, until the asphalt plants reopen (normally in April,) crews use a temporary cold patch. In other words, potholes may reappear until permanent asphalt is available.

Use the QR codes at the right to report a pothole and to track progress on the map. You can also find these links on Facebook and Instagram.

Pothole repairs are not the only improvements going on this year in Ward 17. Of note, the rebuild of the indoor pool at Gunning Recreation Center is underway and scheduled for completion at the end of the year. Next winter, let's beat the winter blues and go for a swim!

On the other end of the ward, signs are already up for the rebuild of the Impett Park playground. Thanks to Friends of Impett Park and all the residents who offered feedback on how to

Report a pothole



View the map



rebuild our most visited playground.

February and March are budget season at Cleveland City Hall. You can tune into all Council meetings on TV20 or City Council's YouTube page. Among others, two areas of focus for me this budget season are staffing levels in the Division of Police and expanding the City's CPR training program within the Division of EMS.

Last but certainly not least, last year's Easter Egg Hunt was so successful that we are bringing it back. **Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 24th at 3 p.m. at Impett Park for some neighborhood (and peanut-free!) fun. ■**



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CIFF48 Sources Local Artist to Craft Filmmaker Awards

By Molly Crawford

Each year the Cleveland International Film Festival commissions a local artist to create the Festival's coveted Filmmaker Awards. Locally designed and produced, the more than 30 awards going to filmmakers from around the world are a representation of the wealth of talent in the Ohio arts community. CIFF is delighted to announce this year's Award Artist is R.C. Sanford of Sankora Studios.

A woodworker with a love of art, glass, architecture, and nature, R.C. began his woodworking career in the mountains of Colorado, where he amassed skills from hand hewing timbers to precision cabinetry. After years of custom woodworking across the United States, he returned to Ohio where he focused on his illuminated designs, taking the leap into full-time artist, designer, and

craftsman. He formed Sankora Studios along with his wife, Trisha Sikora, who assists with finish and glass. Together they design and create lamps and window decor, exhibiting at some of the country's top art festivals.

"Combining wood and art glass requires attention to detail at every step, from the selection of locally sourced hardwoods to the milling and finishing of the piece. The filmmakers selected by the 48th Cleveland International Film Festival produce the highest quality and most evocative films of the time. I am honored to have been chosen to create the Filmmaker Award, and aim to provide the highest quality craftsmanship to reflect their excellence," R.C. explains. Filmmaker Awards will be presented throughout the Festival and as part of the Closing Night Ceremony,

taking place on Saturday, April 13, 2024.

CIFF48 will take place April 3-13, 2024 at Playhouse Square, followed by CIFF48 Streams, sponsored by PNC, which will take place April 14-21, 2024 online. The full Festival lineup will be announced on Friday, March 8, 2024. Tickets go on sale to CIFF members on Friday, March 15, 2024 and to the public on Friday, March 22, 2024. For information on CIFF, please continue to visit clevelandfilm.org. ■

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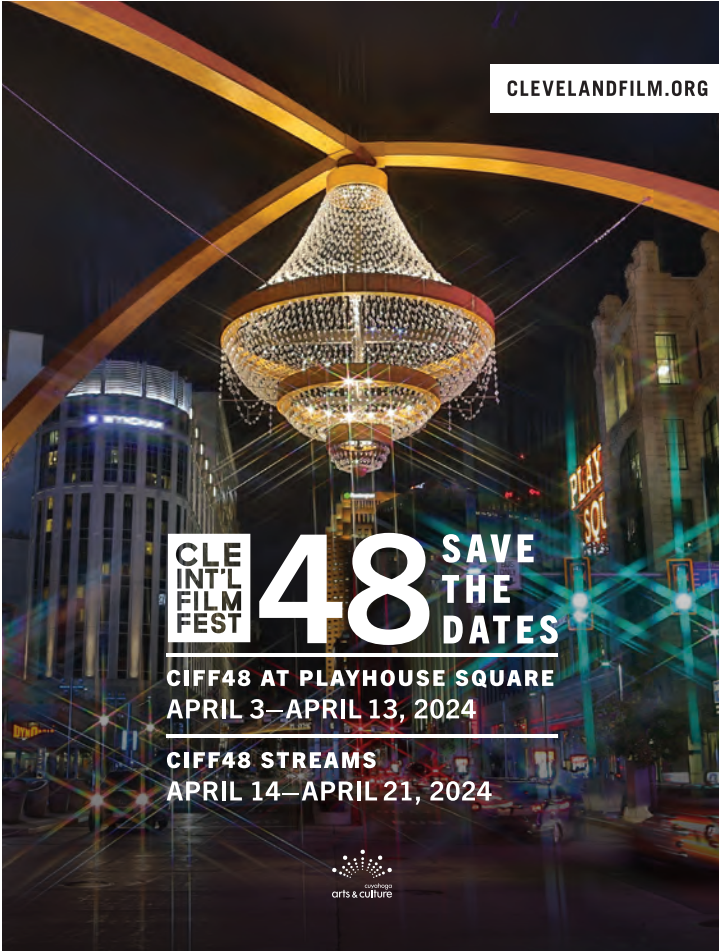
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Impett Park Gets a New Playground *By Emily Pikturna*

Friends of Impett Park (FOIP) has been hard at work! Through extensive conversations with residents and frequent park users, a common sentiment emerged – dissatisfaction with the current state of the park due to deferred maintenance and outdated amenities. Seeking solutions, Friends of Impett Park engaged with local stakeholders, including Cleveland City Councilman Charles Slife, WPKND, and the Mayor's Office of Capital Projects to outline their vision for enhancing the park. Following these discussions, a significant development unfolded in the summer of 2023 when Councilman Slife secured \$750K in ARPA funds for the creation of a new playground at Impett Park. FOIP then got to work on engaging residents in the process as they believe community input and participation should drive the design. The goal is to create a unique and multi-faceted design that is



New playground rendering

on par with playgrounds in neighboring suburbs. The design decisions were also informed by parents of children with disabilities, pediatric occupational therapists, and intervention specialists. This collaborative approach ensured that the playground design aligns with the wants and needs of the community.

The envisioned playground will feature two distinct structures catering to different age groups – one designed for

2–12-year-olds and another for 5-12 year-olds. The array of new amenities includes slides, swings, climbing apparatuses, spinning elements, a warp wall, zipline, sensory elements, and nature-inspired play features. To enhance accessibility and inclusivity for families with disabilities, the existing surface will be replaced with rubberized soft flooring. It is important to note, however, that the allocated funding has limitations. Certain elements, such as splash

pads or water features, fitness courses, playing fields, and walking trails, fall outside the scope of this project and cannot be funded through ARPA funds.

These plans mark the initial phase of FOIP's broader vision for long-term improvements across all domains of Impett Park. For example, the existing pavilion will be demolished to make way for the new playground, and FOIP is actively exploring alternative funding opportunities for a new pavilion in collaboration with the City of Cleveland. In late 2023, FOIP met with key figures, including Director of MOCAP James DeRosa, Parks & Recreation Planning Manager Jay Rauschenbach, and Landscape Architect Jim McKnight. This collaborative effort aimed to secure supplementary state funding grants for renovations beyond the scope of the ARPA playground funding. This includes funding for a new pavilion and safety fencing around the playground.

Construction on the playground is scheduled to begin in the Spring and be completed by Late-Summer 2024. To encourage ongoing community involvement in the design and planning process, FOIP invites interested individuals to join their Spring Meetings, scheduled for the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM starting February 15th at the St. Mark Community Room. ■

Explore West Park: Fish Fry Passport By Rebekah Ferro

For many years, West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development has put out a Fish Fry Guide for our neighborhood during the season of Lent. This year, in addition to a Fish Fry guide, we are attaching a Passport Program to the guide! Take an opportunity to visit some of the many places around West Park that offer Fish Fries and other Lenten Specials from now until Easter Sunday, March 31. This event is part of our Explore West Park series, where we invite you to visit some places you may have never patronized in your own neighborhood. Previous events have included Walk on Wednesdays, the West Park Bar Crawl Passport Program, visits to Buckeye Chestnuts, the Alger Cemetery Spooky Walk, the West Park Dog Walk, and more!

If you would like to participate, you can download and print the passport from the QR code at right or visit the

West Park-Fairview Family YMCA or the West Park Branch of the Cleveland Public Library to pick up a blank passport or drop off a completed passport. When you visit a location on your passport, present your passport and receive a sticker from that location. One lucky participant will win a basket full of merchandise and gift cards from the participating restaurants. The number of unique stickers you receive will determine how many times you are entered to win the prize basket.

Passports can be submitted either electronically through our website, or by visiting the West Park-Fairview Family YMCA (15501 Lorain Ave.) or the West Park Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (3805 W. 157th St.). Passports must be submitted by Friday, April 5 at 11:59pm. The winner will be chosen on Monday, April 8 and notified via email. If you have any questions

about the passport program, please reach out to Molly Crawford by emailing molly@westparkkamms.org, or by calling 216-252-6559 Ext 1500. Get out there and enjoy the fish! ■



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Meet Linda McKenzie: A Force for Community Change

By Rebekah Ferro

M eet Linda McKenzie, a resident of West Park since August of 1990. Linda grew up in South Lorain, Ohio, and remembers fondly the community, people, and everything she loved growing up there. Everybody knew each other in her neighborhood, and everyone helped everyone. She loved the diversity, friendliness, and how her community was like a close-knit family. She met her husband, Allan, while they were both working in the Parks and Recreation Department in Lorain. Linda remembers working with kids in the park and how much she loved it. This is where she began to grow her people skills. She keeps in contact and meets with her friends from South Lorain to this day, and



West Park is where she now works to continue that spirit of community she learned from her mother, neighbors, and friends growing up.

Linda and her husband Allan moved

into their house on W 168th Street in August of 1990. Allan went to culinary school at Carnegie Mellon University and worked as a sous chef at Great Lakes Brewery. Linda went to school for Safety and Protective Services and has worked security at a myriad of places including Higbee's, Continental Cable, PNC Bank, Cleveland Clinic, and the Federal Building in Downtown Cleveland. She remembers her time at the PNC Bank on W 150th Street fondly. In her role, she would monitor security for PNC branches all over the country and catch people trying to rob branches, or even employees who forgot to lock the safe at the end of the day. Every position she had strengthened her customer service skills. Her

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jobs were, and still are, all fun positions that connected her to the community. She currently works security at the Cleveland Public Library. She has worked at the Rice, Harvard-Lee, and the South Brooklyn Branch, but now is at the Louis Stokes Branch, although you can sometimes find her at any branch depending on the day.

One thing that Linda works for every day, is her community. As one of the first people of color to move onto W 168th Street, she and her husband faced challenges being accepted in her neighborhood. Remembering her upbringing in South Lorain, she swore she never wanted anyone else on her street to feel unwelcome. Now, every time someone new moves in, Linda introduces herself to them, offers a warm welcome, and helps connect them to their neighborhood. She also sends a Christmas card to everyone on her street every year. She loves to walk her dog around the neighborhood and talk to her neighbors. Not everyone around her may know her

name, but she says they usually know her as “Biscuit’s Mom.” As the years have gone by, Linda is happy to see West Park grow into a more diverse neighborhood. She says, “I am happy to be in a place now that is like where I grew up.”

Outside of work, Linda likes to travel, play racquetball, go to a Jazzercise class at Gunning Rec Center, and get out and walk her dog in the neighborhood and the Rocky River Reservation. She also loves music, tending to her garden, and serving her community. She currently serves as an elected member of the Executive Committee for Ward 17, Precinct L for the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party. She has always enjoyed getting out into her neighborhood and getting people involved in making their community a better place and learned that’s exactly what a Precinct Person does. She was appointed to the Board of Directors for West Park Kamm’s Neighborhood Development in 2023. She had gotten connected to WPKND when she utilized our Senior Home Repair Pro-

gram to help her get a new roof in 2021. She accepted the position because she saw it as an opportunity to get “out of (her) box” and do something different to help her community. Her goal as a board member is to be present and get people to show up and get involved. She hopes that if people who look like her see her at community events, meetings, and other neighborhood happenings, it will encourage them to get more involved in their community as well.

Linda loves her community and works hard to connect with the people in it. She loves to help others and get involved wherever she can. Her hopes for West Park are that it continues to grow, become more diverse, and be a place where everyone can feel welcome and connected. She hopes more people in West Park will get involved in their community and continue to work to make West Park a strong neighborhood. Linda works to make West Park the best it can be, and we appreciate her for everything she does. ■

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New Townhome Development Coming to Warren Road

By Joe Dill



Artist rendering of a new townhome community to be built along Warren Road

Soon, a new community will begin to take shape along Warren Road. Later this year, Maverick Building Co. will break ground on an infill development of nineteen townhomes just south of St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church. The project will have a private drive off Warren Road and abut the backyards of homes along West 153rd Street and Montrose Avenue.

Units will range in size from three to four-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bathroom suites with individual garages on the first floor of each townhome. In addition to the garage, each townhome will also feature a bonus room on the first floor that could serve as a bedroom. On the second floor, an open-concept kitchen, dining room, and living room will fill the space, as well as a private powder room. The third-floor accounts for the remaining bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Outside, each unit will have a small, landscaped front yard and a private patio and green space in the rear. Special attention was paid to other homes in the neighborhood when it came to selecting exterior finishes. A mix of brick, vinyl siding, and board and batten in shades of beige and bronze will combine to create a façade intended to blend into neighboring properties.

The new private drive will also be lined with street trees in the front of each home with several larger species of trees scattered along the property lines. There is currently a mix of invasive tree species and aging/unsafe trees

on the property that will need to be removed, however, the number of new trees planted will exceed those that must be taken down. Additional landscaping comprised of native plants will provide color and interest throughout the year.

Another feature of the site will be a retention pond in the northwest corner. During instances of heavy rainfall, the retention pond will fill with excess water to lessen the chance of flooding to the development and neighboring properties. Throughout most of the year, it will look like a depression in the ground, but it will serve a very important purpose during the rainy season. The pond will be fenced in for safety.

Each townhome will be individually metered for utilities, though for the time being the development will be market-rate rental units. The properties will add a unique product to West Park's rental market that the development team believes will attract young professionals and families who want to call West Park home but cannot find the right house for them yet or are not ready to commit to homeownership.

The construction team behind the project, Maverick Building Co., is an experienced home builder. Based in Avon, Maverick Building Co. has worked throughout the region on new home builds, remodels, and renovations. Young Design Studio of Lakewood is the architect for the project. The team's current timeline has them breaking ground on the project in late summer/early fall of 2024. ■



Young's Art Center



Summer Camp & More...

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--	--	--

Sidewalk Chalk of Fame – Free for all ages – 8/2 & 3

Our pavement is so boring. We need to liven things up. Come and help us add some color to our parking lot and sidewalk. Fairview Park will thank you for the smiles.

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Fairview Hospital first in Northeast Ohio using cutting-edge technology during thyroid surgery.



John Costin III, MD

The thyroid and the four parathyroids are glands in your neck, each regulates certain things in your body. The thyroid gland regulates metabolism, growth and development. The parathyroids regulate calcium levels in the blood.

“If either of those don’t function properly surgery may be necessary,” says John Costin III, MD, an endocrine surgeon at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital.

Dr. Costin explains issues that may require surgery:

Thyroid

- Enlargement (goiter) causing choking sensation or difficulty swallowing.
- Overactive, producing too much hormone.
- Nodule which could be cancerous.

Parathyroid

- Overactive causing kidney stones, osteoporosis and many other problems.

Dr. Costin utilizes the PTeye System — a cutting-edge medical device recently acquired by the Community West Foundation — to aid in thyroid and parathyroid surgeries. Fairview Hospital is the only hospital in Northeast Ohio that has this device.

During surgery, a PTeye probe is placed on suspected tissue. The probe utilizes near-infrared auto fluorescence which allows him to confirm in real time and with 96% accuracy the parathyroids from surrounding tissues like thyroid, fat and lymph nodes.

“This device is an aid to visual identification that allows me to confirm the suspected tissue for removal in a safe, feasible and non-invasive manner,” says Dr. Costin. “Essentially allowing me to do my job even better.”

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Costin at Fairview Hospital, call 440.204.7439.

FIRST PERCUTANEOUS LEG BYPASS SURGERY PERFORMED AT CLEVELAND CLINIC FAIRVIEW HOSPITAL.



J. Eduardo Corso, MD

J. Eduardo Corso, MD, a vascular surgeon at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital and the West Valley Medical Building, recently performed the first percutaneous transmural arterial bypass (PTAB) at Fairview Hospital.

A PTAB is a procedure that is similar to what would be done with an open leg bypass from the groin to the knee area with a fabric lined graft without making incisions in the leg. The PTAB procedure uses fabric lined or covered stents (stent graft) to get blood and oxygen around a blocked artery in the thigh to the lower leg and foot.

It involves making a needle stick in the opposite groin as well as in the vein of the calf on the side of the blockage and tunneling stent grafts around the blockage using extra room in the thigh vein as a natural tunnel.

The procedure takes about two hours, the patient can go home the next day, and the patient can resume normal activity in about a day.

“The percutaneous transmural arterial bypass is a technological advance in peripheral

vascular surgery. It represents something not only novel, but akin to the laparoscopic surgery advancements that changed general surgery over the last 20+ years,” says Dr. Corso.

Dr. Corso says ideal percutaneous leg bypass patients include those with:

- Long length of blockages in the thigh arteries.
- Very heavy calcium inside their blockages.
- Appropriate room inside the vein to accommodate stents while still allowing venous return and appropriate targets for the stents at both ends.
- Prior failed stenting procedures.

“I’m honored to bring the latest in vascular surgery to the Fairview Hospital community,” says Dr. Corso.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Corso or another vascular surgeon at Fairview Hospital or the West Valley Medical Building, call 440.333.8600.

Apelt Resident Works With Bike Cleveland to Improve Pedestrian Safety

by Molly Crawford

In 2013 when Matt Whisenhunt and his wife Carrie bought their home on Apelt Avenue, he didn't think about the street all that much. Matt, who is the Programs Director for Harbor and Bridge Community Center as well as a Pastor at the United Methodist Church that houses the Center, had grown up in Parma, and Carrie, who works as a Secretary at University Hospitals, had been raised in Bedford. The main impetus for moving to West Park was that it was a central location, a compromise for their far-east and far-west families. The young family moved in and quickly settled into their new neighborhood, expanding their family to four children along the way.

The street didn't become an issue for Matt and his family until 2020 when the outbreak of COVID-19 caused everyone to hunker down in their homes. By the summer of that year, with warmer temperatures and school out of session, the neighborhood kids began to congregate outside. "They had what I like to look at as a classic summer outside, riding bikes, playing games, they just did everything outside for hours. They move around the neighborhood like an amoeba." Matt explained. "Eventually, they started to spill into the street, not to be dangerous, but because to them, it is just more area to play. And it was hard to tell them no for certain things that did require some street play, but the hard part became constantly monitoring the traffic."

At the same time that he was facing these issues, Matt found a growing interest in urbanism. "I started to read articles and books about well-built cities and building good communities, just taking an interest. I found this world where people place a high value on walking and biking, not for fun's sake. But because building communities that prioritize the livability of people and



PHOTO COURTESY OF BIKE CLEVELAND

"I remember when riding and walking around our neighborhood, there were several locations where people hung up signs that would say, slow kids at play, so there was a desire for change."

Volunteers painting the the crosswalks

not cars is a vastly different community to live in."

These two forces in Matt's life collided in the summer of 2022, when after two summers of lockdowns and working diligently with other parents on his street to ensure the safety of their children, Matt decided something needed to be done. "I remember when riding and walking around our neighborhood, there were several locations where people hung up signs that would say, slow kids at play, so there was a desire for change," Matt recalled. He quickly con-

nected with Bike Cleveland, a non-profit organization dedicated to making streets safer and more equitable for the communities that surround them. "We just started talking, and pretty quickly we realized that painted crosswalks and some curb extensions were right for the area. Bike Cleveland walked us through what this would look like, the agencies we need to talk to, the forms we need to fill out for the city, all of that. And then they connected us with a designer at the Kent State Urban Design Collaborative who did some renderings. Then I started canvassing with the renderings to get feedback, once in January and again in March. I kept some neighbors in the loop over email, but it was the kids that helped me to flyer." This all culminated in a chalking event that took place in early summer 2023. Neighbors were invited out to draw their own designs in the crosswalks that were to be painted and explore what they could look like.

Concurrently, Bike Cleveland, who sponsored the project, was doing their own research on the area. They conducted pedestrians counts at the intersections where installations were slated to happen and also counted how many cars fully stopped at the stop sign and how many made a rolling stop. The results showed a high number of drivers were not completely stopping, making the chances for collision with a pedestrian or cyclist higher. The fact that the installations are near Clara E Westropp Elementary School was



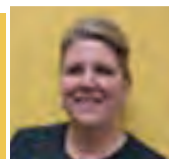
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also important for the organization. Jenna Thomas, Advocacy and Policy Organizer for Bike Cleveland, explained, "This was our first summer doing these kinds of street painting projects, so at the time, we were following the lead of passionate residents who wanted to do some kind of installation in their neighborhood. We knew we wanted to prioritize locations near parks and schools, and we really were trying to just highlight pedestrian spaces and pedestrian's right to space, especially kids."

Finally, in October 2023 the crosswalks were painted and the curb extensions were installed. Bike Cleveland, who sponsored the project, helped to organize a group of dedicated volunteers who did the work. The project took two days to install and will last for about a year. So far, Matt has been pleased with the results, "I feel a little bit better letting [my kids] go without being constantly watched." However, the project has not been without those who are off put by the change. "When-



PHOTO COURTESY OF BIKE CLEVELAND

ever you make changes to the roadway, there's some kind of pushback. People struggle with change, and we live in such a car-centric society that people have a hard time giving up space to people on bikes and people walking. We ran into some of that, but there are a lot of people that are really excited to have improved safety in their neighborhood, as well as some public art," Jenna explained.

Finished crosswalk

The project is temporary and is expected to stay up for a year. If you are a resident with an interest in discussing how residents can lead change such as this in their neighborhoods, join the West Park Better Streets group. The next meeting is on Monday, March 11 from 6-7 p.m. at the WPKND offices at 17407 Lorain Avenue (enter in the back under the blue awning). ■



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Rocking Mobility Expands into Neighboring Storefront *By Joe Dill*

Rocking Mobility has called Kamm's Plaza home since 2020 and late last year they decided to expand their footprint. Husband and wife Paul and Marsha Adair founded Rocking Mobility with the goal of providing a one-stop-shop for all their customer's mobility needs. Though they opened in early 2020, just as pandemic-related shutdowns were beginning, they were still able to connect with and grow their customer base and are excited to be able to offer more services with their expanded space.

Their showroom is a great spot for customers to be able to test out various scooters and other pieces of mobility equipment to make sure a device will suit their needs before making a purchase. Instead of running the risk of facing a high restocking fee when ordering a piece online that may need to be returned, Rocking Mobility's try-before-you-buy test track in the center of their store gives you the chance to get real-world experience with a product before taking it home. They refer to themselves as a "you-centered" business, meaning they want to be sure every customer finds something that will work for them.

Rocking Mobility offers a wide array of products that can help to make your home safer as well. Studies show that one in four people over the age of sixty-five will experience a fall, and most often those falls occur in the bathroom. To lessen the chance of that happening, Rocking Mobility carries grab bars, tub chairs, hand-held shower heads, and more to make the bathroom a more safe and functional space.

If you are only in the market for a piece of equipment on a temporary basis, Rocking Mobility can assist you with that too. They offer rentals on a



Rocking Mobility staff

daily, weekly, or monthly basis for those recovering from an injury or requiring assistance for a short period of time. They deliver rentals directly to the customer to make the process as convenient as possible.

Rocking Mobility staff can also assist you with repairs of your mobility device, even if you did not buy the item from Rocking Mobility originally. Scoot-

ers, power chairs, and the like require regular maintenance just like other means of transportation to ensure they are functioning properly. Similar to their delivery service, repairs can be scheduled to take place at your home if you are not able to visit their store in person.

With the variety of services and products they have available, Rocking Mobility's main goal is to allow their customers to live as comfortably and independently as possible. They say their greatest reward is seeing smiling customers leaving their store feeling more confident in their abilities to get around.

Marsha, Paul, and the rest of their staff have been glad to be a part of the community for the last few years and are looking forward to growing their presence in West Park with their expanded services.

Rocking mobility is open Monday through Friday 10am-5pm and Saturday from 10am-2pm. Their storefront is located in Kamm's Plaza at 17472 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44111 right next door to Ace Hardware. ■

YOUR MOBILITY MATTERS How Can We Help?



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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: Allison Woods,
216-252-6559 x1700
or allison@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.
Healthy Home Production Program (HHP)	HHP provides a grant to moderate-income Cleveland residents who have 80% of the Area Median Income and reside in (and own) single or two-family homes in need of health and safety repairs.

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



1. Inspect Your Roof

Clear debris and any branches from the roof. Also check for any damage that may have been caused by snow or ice.

2. Clean Your Gutters

Blocked gutters can lead to damage to your home if water doesn't drain away from your foundation properly.

3. Wash Your Home's Exterior

Don't forget the windows to remove dirt and grime accumulated throughout the winter months.

4. Clean Air Conditioner

Also replace the air filter. Clear any weeds or debris that may have accumulated by your compressor.

5. Clean Dryer Vent

First, unplug the dryer. Then remove the vent hose and with a vacuum, clean any lint buildup or debris. This will help improve efficiency and reduce fire hazard.

6. Check Foundation

Look for any cracking that may have developed over the winter months.

7. Test Smoke Detector

And your carbon monoxide detector. Also replace the batteries for safety.

SPRING C

A Checklist for



LEANING: Your Home

2
Clean Your Gutters

3
Wash Your
Home's Exterior

4
Clean
Air Conditioner



**The following resources
can assist you!**

**Don't have tools or
equipment?**

Home Repair Resource: Tool Library
Call 216-381-6100 or email
toollibrary@hrrc-ch.org.

*Community Housing Solutions:
Tool Loan*
Call (216) 231-5815 or
(216) 651-0077.

**Need Indoor or
Outdoor Chore Help?**

*Cleveland Department of Aging
Chore Services Program*
Call 216-664-3998 or
216-664-4694.

Call us at West Park Kamm's!
We can refer you to services
including:

- grass cutting
- snow shoveling
- volunteer groups for
larger projects



A Look Back at St. Patrick's Day History in West Park

By Joe Dill



Celebrating the saving of St. Patrick WP church from closure.



West Side Irish-American Club pipe band, date unknown



Irish coffee float, 1980



The biggest party of the year.



Hibernian of the year, date unknown



St. Patrick Church's Shamrock Pipe Band, 1957

Arguably one of the most popular days the spring brings to West Park Kamm's is St. Patrick's Day. Celebrated across the city, St. Patrick's Day and Irish heritage have a long history in Cleveland, specifically in the West Park Kamm's neighborhood. Stepping off for its one hundred and eighty-second time this year, the St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Cleveland has become the centerpiece of the holiday. The parade regularly features more than ten thousand participants along a route lined by hundreds of thousands of spectators.

Following the parade, revelers descend upon Cleveland's neighborhoods to continue the festivities. With its strong Irish community and many local hotspots that highlight Irish culture, West Park Kamm's is a popular place to spend the holiday.

However, West Park Kamm's history with the Irish community extends beyond the holiday. Irish settlers began to settle in Cleveland in large numbers around the mid-1840s during the Potato Famine in Ireland. A community centered around faith, in 1848 Irish settlers founded one of the oldest parishes in the Cleveland Catholic Diocese, Saint Patrick Church West Park on Rocky River Drive. By 1870, the Irish community accounted for roughly ten percent of Cleveland's population. Four decades later in 1910, St. Patrick's Day was formally recognized as an official holiday in the state of Ohio thanks to a bill introduced by then State Senator Dan Mooney.

Irish heritage remains just as vibrant in West Park Kamm's to this day, and as everyone gets ready to celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year, we wanted to share some of our favorite photos from years past around the neighborhood. You can view these and additional photos on our website at westparkkamm.org/stpatricksdays

We hope everyone has a Happy St. Patrick's Day! ■



2018's queen of the St. Patrick's Day parade with former Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland, the Most Rev. Nelson Perez.

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOS: MICHAEL SCHWARTZ LIBRARY, CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Studio West Park Opening in 5 Points Neighborhood *By Joe Dill*

A West Park couple is getting ready to bring their passions together under one roof this spring. Meet Riley & Grace – West Park residents for the last four years and owners of Studio West Park. When the former Inward Compass Yoga storefront became available in the Five Points neighborhood, the pair saw an opportunity to reimagine the space with new offerings mixed in with the yoga classes that were already popular with the community.

Studio West Park will continue to offer a variety of yoga classes throughout the week and on weekend afternoons. The vision is to feature instructors who will offer classes suited for all skill levels and styles of practice. Grace is currently working to complete her yoga instructor certification and plans to start teaching classes at Studio West Park as well.

However, yoga will not be the only thing you'll find at Studio West Park.

You might already know Riley from his produce company, Farm Dog Fresh. Opened in 2021, the goal of Farm Dog Fresh is to bring the best produce from Northeast Ohio growers directly from farm to table. Riley works with small farms in Ohio to cut out the big box retailers and make fresh produce



Riley and Grace will host a variety of events along with yoga classes at Studio West Park.

more accessible.

For the last few years, Farm Dog Fresh has been using Five Points Café as a place to do pop-up shops on the weekend. In Studio West Park, though, Farm Dog Fresh will find a more permanent home. Riley and Grace plan to utilize the space on weekend mornings during the growing season as a space for Farm Dog Fresh and then schedule

yoga classes for the rest of the day. If you're interested in signing up for the produce program, you can learn more at farmdog-fresh.com

Additionally, they plan to host monthly craft events in the space to round out Studio West Park's calendar of offerings. In the past, they have hosted seasonal workshops like wreath-making classes around the holidays and will expand those offerings in their new space. They also hope to engage with other groups who could host small workshops in the space to make a place for the community to gather for a variety of uses.

Studio West Park will have a soft opening on March 17th to welcome everyone inside while they're out and about for St. Patrick's Day celebrations. The space will be regularly open beginning April 1. Studio West Park is located at 15903 West Park Road, Cleveland, OH 44111.

Studio West Park is still looking for instructors to practice in the space. If you or someone you know is interested in teaching classes, you can reach out to Grace at 440-334-0079. ■





The Market Returns!

June 11-Oct. 13

Every Sunday, 10am –1pm

16906 Albers Avenue

Follow us on   for updates! @kammsmarket

Two Grants Allow WPKND to Improve Tree Canopy in West Park

By Emily Pikturna



With the help of volunteers, 55 trees were planted at CMHA's Riverside park development.

ern Red Oak, a robust species adaptable to various soil conditions, can reach heights of 50-75 feet at maturity. Sycamores, known for their low-maintenance and fast-growing nature, offer substantial shade, growing up to 70 feet tall and 50 feet wide. The Flowering Dogwood, a smaller yet visually striking tree, matures at 20-40 feet and is ideal for locations with existing large trees.

Beyond the aesthetic benefits, studies suggest that planting a tree in the front yard can increase home value by 3-15%. Additionally, trees providing shade contribute to reduced energy consumption, lowering utility bills. Moreover, by supporting local biodiversity and creating habitats for birds, insects, and wildlife, residents actively contribute to the ecological balance. The positive impact extends to mental health and well-being, as green spaces with trees are linked to improved overall life satisfaction.

Mark your calendars—trees will be available for pick up starting April 22. Join us in making West Park an even greener and more vibrant community and claim yours today! ■

HEALTHY URBAN TREE CANOPY GRANT

Tree interest form



Exciting developments are underway in West Park, where a significant initiative to enhance the neighborhood's green space is taking root. At Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing

Authority's (CMHA) Riverside Park, located on Ward 17's southern edge, fifty-five trees have been recently planted. The primary objective of this endeavor is to rejuvenate the tree canopy, providing essential shading for sidewalks and homes.

The project's next phase targets private lawns surrounding Clara E Westropp Elementary School. Through careful assessment, we identified an area lacking adequate tree canopy coverage. **Homeowners and renters residing on Ponciana, Flamingo, Ferncliffe, Fairville, W. 183, and W. 185 are encouraged to complete the interest form for a chance at receiving a complimentary**

tree installation in their yard, complete with consultation and maintenance assistance.

In tandem with these efforts, we are recruiting individuals to join the ranks of West Park Tree Stewards. These stewards will play a crucial role as the maintenance team for CMHA trees, extending their services to community assistance, participating in outreach programs, and undergoing specialized tree-related training. ■

FIRST ENERGY TREE PROGRAM

Sign up to pick up a tree!



Adding to the momentum, our collaboration with the First Energy Tree Program has yielded a generous donation of 100 trees for residents of Ward 16 & 17. **Among these, 25 Red Oak, 25 Sycamore, and 50 Flowering Dogwood trees are available, each accompanied by stakes and trunk covers.** The North-

WE'RE HIRING!

We are hiring a tree steward program manager and tree stewards. Get paid to enjoy the spring weather and meet your neighbors.

Visit westparkkamms.org/about-wpknd/careers/ to apply!

Calling for Community Volunteers!

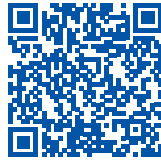
By Rebekah Ferro

As planning for the summer is in full swing at WPKND, we're also reaching out and looking for volunteers to help with the many projects and events that we do. There are many ways to get involved in your community, including assisting with events, getting involved in the West Park Green Team, and even helping out your fellow neighbors!

Events: West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development put on multiple events throughout the summer, including Pop-Ups in the Park, the Hooley, and Kamm's Corners Farmers Market. People of all ages and abilities can help, from setting up of tents and tables at each of these events, to helping sell West Park merchandise and being a friendly and welcoming face at the Information Tent, there's something for everyone to do. These events would not be possible without the dedication of volunteers who are committed to bringing the community together for days of fun! If you are interested in volunteering at the Hooley or the Pop-Ups in the

Park, please email Rebekah Ferro at rebekah@westparkkamms.org. For a full list of dates, times, and jobs for Kamm's Corners Farmers Market, scan the QR code below, or contact Rebekah with any questions and areas of interest.

- **THE HOOLEY** Saturday, June 8 (8 am–8 pm)
- **POP-UPS IN THE PARK** Tuesday, July 16; Tuesday, August 6; Friday, August 30 (6 pm–8 pm)
- **KAMM'S CORNERS FARMERS MARKET** Sundays, June 16–October 13 (8 am–2 pm)



joining the West Park Green Team and receiving their monthly e-newsletter on all things green happening around Northeast Ohio, contact Emily Pikturna at emily@westparkkamms.org.



- **EARTH DAY** Saturday, April 22 (10:30–12 pm)
- **PRE-HOOLEY** Wednesday, June 5 (6–7 pm)
- **JULY 31** (6–7 pm)
- **SEPTEMBER 12** (6–7 pm)

Neighborhood Service: Is your volunteer group from your church, school, or business looking for service opportunities? WPKND is here to connect your group with projects to fulfill your service hour requirements, day of service needs, and more! If you have a group that is looking to do a service project, please contact Rebekah Ferro at rebekah@westparkkamms.org, or CJ Demchak at cj@westparkkamms.org, and we will get you connected to a service project that fits the needs and abilities of your group. ■



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WPKND Says Goodbye to Executive Director, Rosemary Mudry *By Joe Dill*

Last December, WPKND staff said goodbye to outgoing Executive Director, Rosemary Mudry. Rosemary joined the team at WPKND in the fall of 2019 and helped guide the organization and neighborhood through many years of growth and success. While accounting for all she achieved in her tenure in one article would prove difficult, we wanted to highlight some of her key accomplishments from the last four years.

On the economic development front, several projects were completed around the neighborhood thanks to Rosemary's support. Most notably, the long-vacant KMart site now known as the West Park Shopping Center at the corner of West 150th and Lorain is once again a bustling shopping center with a great mix of retail, grocery, and food options for the neighborhood.

Rosemary also helped WPKND expand the services we can provide to residents, most notably through a partnership formed with the McGregor Foundation. Through the McGregor Foundation's support, WPKND was able to double the number of seniors we can assist through our Senior Home Repair Program. Additionally, through a grant with the Ohio Department of Education, WPKND was able to establish a free afterschool program for students at the Horizon Academy. The program was funded for five years beginning in 2022.

Infrastructure projects currently in the works will be implemented in the future, but Rosemary will share some of the credit once they are completed. Soon, a new connector trail from Riveredge Road along Old Lorain will provide a pedestrian pathway for residents to

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access Little Met Golf Course and beyond to the Rocky River Reservation.

While all the above referenced projects and achievements took a team of people to make them a reality, Rosemary's knowledge, stewardship, and advocacy for the neighborhood played a key role in each.

Rosemary left WPKND to become the inaugural Executive Director of the newly formed nonprofit Cleveland Public Market Corporation (CPMC). While we will miss her around the WPKND office, our staff and Board of Directors wish Rosemary all the best in her future and thank her for everything she did for West Park Kamm's. ■

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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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