

Kamm's Corners

Magazine

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Farmers Market**

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Kamm's Corners Development Corporation
Volume 17, Number 3 • Summer 2017

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Kamm's Corners

Magazine



From the Director

The heat is stifling at times this summer, but I'm sure I'll be longing for days like this in about six months! Cleveland weather certainly has hit some extremes, but compared to other parts of the country dealing with drought, floods, fire, and more, I'll take Cleveland any day.

Looking back, I hope everyone had a great time at The Hooley on Kamm's Corners. The weather was awesome. We had an amazing crowd and a great time. Our sincere thanks go to our Presenting Sponsor Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital, our Family Stage Sponsor Dollar Bank, and especially Councilman Marty Keane.

The three newest businesses to open in the neighborhood are about beer, coffee, and ice cream! We welcome Working Class Brewery and Kamm's Corners Ice Cream Co. to Kamms Plaza, and 5 Points Coffee and Tea to, well, 5 Points. Please favor these entrepreneurs with your business. See articles in the pages that follow.

Kamm's Corners Farmers Market is off to a great summer, with good attendance and a wide variety of vendors, many of them new. Add in weekly live music and chef demonstrations and you'll see why so many of your neighbors have made it a Sunday tradition. How about you? See the story on page 14.

There's lots more fun yet to come! Over Labor Day weekend, the Cretan Center Greek Festival returns. Then the popular Our Lady of Angels Fall Festival takes place September 8 and 9. After that, it's the 16th Annual Cleveland Heroes Run on Sunday, September 17. Look for our handy calendar and be sure to get out and have some food, music, and fun.

Finally, the Cleveland Kamm's Area Special Improvement District will be comprehensively replanting all of the public planters on Lorain Avenue in August, with a coordinated color palette that will offer us vibrant color all summer. They're going to clean the sidewalks, too. We thank the property owners that are a part of the district!

As always, let us know how we're doing.

Our cover: Wonderful produce from the Kamm's Corners Farmers Market graces our cover. The photo was taken by Joe Outlaw at the Quiroz Farm stand at the Sunday, August 6 market. See the article on page 14 for more information about market goodness!

Steve Lorenz
Executive Director

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Mission Statement

"To facilitate the development and promotion of the West Park neighborhood. In coordination with our partners, we will engage with residents, businesses, institutions, and visitors in elevating the quality of life in our community."

• Memberships are tax deductible •

Around the Corners

The 11th summer of **Kamm's Corners Farmers Market** is underway, featuring farm fresh produce, live music, chef demos, and healthy living advice! Visit every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. through October 8 in the municipal parking lot behind Walgreens on the corner of Fresh and Fun. See why our market was named "**Best of the West**" on page 14.

Let **KCDC** help you tackle your summer painting projects! We've partnered with **Sherwin Williams** to offer residents great deals on paint and painting supplies. Call **Steve Lorenz** at 216-252-6559, extension 1100 or email him at steve.lorenz@kammscorners.com for details.

Have you visited "**The Zone**" recently? That's **The Cone Zone**, 4018 Rocky River Drive. Open 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. most days, the expanded menu includes new sandwich options as well as both soft serve and Weber's premium ice cream.

The **Cretan Center** will hold its **7th Annual Kamm's Corners Greek Festival** over Labor Day Weekend, starting on Friday and continuing through Monday. West 168th Street will be closed to traffic. Enjoy traditional Greek food, music, and dancing. See the article on page 8.

The **Fall Festival of Our Lady of Angels Church**, 3644 Rocky River Drive, takes place Friday, September 8 from 6 to 11 p.m. and Saturday, September 9, from 2 to 11 p.m. featuring games for all ages, a huge variety of food, and 38 gift baskets valued at \$100 each to be raffled.

Style Mutt Dog Boutique, Daycare, & Grooming Salon, 3525 Warren Road, celebrates its 10th Anniversary with a party in the store on September 16, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy free food and ten very "bark-worthy" specials. **Hatfield's Goode Grub** will be served around noon. See the ad on page 13.

Happy 17th Anniversary to **Smedley's Bar and Grille**, 17004

Lorain Avenue, recently ranked number one by the **Fox 8 Hot List** for best live music venue. In addition to great music from Thursday through Sunday, daily specials delight patrons. See the article on page 12.

Thanks to all who attended our **40th Annual Town Meeting**. Read a recap of the evening's event on page 13 and a history of our organization on page 26.

Spend Saturday, September 16, learning how to incorporate the heart's intelligence into the day-to-day experience of life at **River's Edge**, 3430 Rocky River Drive. The seminar is "*New World Now: The Science of Heart-Connected Living with Howard Martin*." Learn more at riversedgecleveland.com.

Mark your calendar for the **16th Annual Cleveland Heroes Run**, taking place on Sunday, September 17. Read the article on page 9 for details about this event to benefit the **West Park Cleveland Police & Fire Fighters Memorial Scholarship Fund**.

The starship **USS Challenger**, the West Park based Cleveland chapter of **The Federation**, an international Star Trek fan organization dedicated to community service, will be hosting their 2nd annual **Star Trek for Heroes Day** fundraiser on Tuesday, September 5, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., at **PJ McIntyre's Irish Pub**, 17119 Lorain Avenue. The event will feature a chinese raffle, and 25% of patrons tabs attending the event will be donated to our fallen heroes!

A golf outing to benefit the **West Side Irish American Pipe & Drum Band** takes place on Sunday, September 17, at **Royal Crest Golf Club** in Columbia Station. There's a 7:30 a.m. shotgun start, rain or shine. The cost is \$110 per player and includes greens fees, cart, beer, snack/lunch at the turn, lots of contest holes, a catered meal, and award party. For details call **Tim Sweany** at 440-915-2299.

The **West Park United Church of Christ**, 3909 Rocky River Drive, offers a free community meal on the last Sunday of every month, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. An **open mic and talent show** takes place Friday, September 22, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

While the weather remains mild, why not plan a neighborhood block party? Call **Councilman Marty Keane's** office at 216-664-4239 for the application at least 14 days ahead of the event to close your street to traffic. Allow 10 days for processing the application. The kids will love it, and it's a great way to get to know everyone a little better.

The **West Park Young Professionals** are tackling a number of community improvement projects. They meet on the fourth Thursday of every month and welcome all area young professionals who are interested in participating. For more information, e-mail westparkyp@gmail.com.

Self defense specialists at **All American Karate**, 16600 Lorain Avenue, offer individual and group lessons for adults, group classes for children, as well as aerobic "Kickin' Body Sculpting," Zumba fitness, and Tai Chi. The school has produced several state and national champions. Visit allamericankarate.net or call 440-331-0010 for more information.

Calling all seniors! The **13th Annual Cleveland Senior Walk** takes place on Thursday, September 7, at Mall C, downtown. Registration and health screenings begin at 8:45 a.m. followed by a brief program at 9:30 a.m. The walk begins at 10 a.m. Free t-shirts go to the first 1,000 registered walkers. Call 216-664-2833 for more information.

The **Friends of Mothers & Infants Annual Stroll & Roll 5K Race and 1-Mile Fun Run** is set for Saturday, September 23, at 9:30 a.m. It begins and ends at West Park Station, 17015 Lorain Avenue. Register online at peaceracing.com.

Check out the **West Park Branch** of the **Cleveland Public Library**, 3805 West 157th Street. It offers an array of activities for the entire family, from story telling hours to computer classes. Call 216-623-7102 for details.

Known for its farm-to-table cuisine, **AMP 150** at the **Cleveland Airport Marriott**, 4277 West 150th Street, offers harvest dinners with a menu that reflects the season four times a year. These multi-course dinners are served family style in the company of other fine food fans. The next one is Friday, September 22. Reserve your place by calling 216-706-8787.

Save the date! Saturday, October 28, is the annual **Fright Night**, a combined party and costume contest at **West Park Station**, 17015 Lorain Avenue, in conjunction with **Back Stage Bar**, 17001 Lorain Avenue. Start planning your winning costume now!

Puritas Nursery & Garden Center, 19201 Puritas Avenue, will be hosting a **Customer Appreciation Day** on Saturday, September 23. In addition to complimentary hot dogs and soft drinks, customers will enjoy a **30% discount** on all their purchases. See the ad on page 6.

The newly opened **Kamm's Corners Ice Cream Company** at **Kamms Plaza** has been named the official "**Galactic Ice Cream Parlor**" for the local **USS Challenger** Star Trek fan club. Business owner **Lisa Kay** will be creating a special Star Trek themed ice cream flavor and will donate a portion of every sale to the club's **Star Trek for Heroes** fundraising mission in support of the West Park Heroes Run. See the **Neighborhood Spotlight** on page 28 and the ad on page 15.

We wish a happy retirement to **Sherry Jones** and welcome **James and Dawn Bentley**, new owners of **Seniors Helping Seniors**, the popular in-home care service company (and KCDC business member), serving western Cuyahoga County. See the ad on page 19.

The **West Park Kiwanis Club** presented another grand **Independence Day parade!** See photos on page 9. Serving the community since 1927, this service club welcomes new members. Contact kiwanisofwestpark-club@yahoo.com. Dinner meetings are held at **The Cretan Party Center**, 3853 West 168th Street on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. Visit their website at westparkkiwanis.org for more information.

For business news, be sure to read **Biz Bits** on page 6 by Ben Campbell, Director of Commercial & Industrial Development.

Keep informed about neighborhood events by following KCDC on social media. Find us on Facebook, Twitter @KammsCorners, and Instagram by searching for Kamm's Corners Development Corporation.

Councilman's Corner

... by Councilman Marty Keane

News from Ward 17 and City Hall



Dear Neighbor:

As we wrap up a wonderful summer and head into back-to-school season, I offer many thanks to our great community partners for organizing and staffing a wide variety of summer events throughout our neighborhoods. From races, picnics, and performing arts to live music performances, all were pulled off mostly by volunteers who care deeply for the City of Cleveland and especially West Park.

With back-to-school time comes my annual plea to slow down and drive safely. Our neighborhood schools open at the end of the month, which means an increase in pedestrian and vehicular traffic at our schools for the early morning drop off and afternoon pick-up. To minimize the impact of such traffic, avoid it or remain patient and slow down. We are all anxious to reach our destinations, but safety must remain our primary focus.

Construction continues! Although we aren't seeing nearly the number of orange cones as last year, we still have our fair share. Rocky River Drive remains a mess. Dominion is wrapping up their gas line work, and Water Pollution Control is replacing the old over/under sewer with separated storm and sewer lines. The infrastructure was clearly aging! The separate sewers reduce infiltration and back-ups. After all the work and resources we have put into Rocky River Drive, it remains my mission to see it brought back to where it was and even better!

Rockport off of Triskett is also having its sewer line replaced. Both projects are slated to be finished during this construction season with as little disruption to homeowners and businesses as possible. That said, please make a point to patronize the many small businesses within the construction zone. It's one thing to be disrupted in your commute. It's another thing for a neighborhood business to be adversely effected. Small businesses are the lifeline of our neighborhood. Please give them our support!

Speaking of small businesses, there have been some very exciting small business openings in West Park lately. In Kamms Plaza we have beer and ice cream. Working

Class Brewery and Kamm's Corners Ice Cream Company both opened recently. Please support these fine enterprises, which are precisely the kind that keep our neighborhoods vibrant and stable. Welcome also to 5 Points Cafe at the intersection of West Park Road. and West 159th Street. Tucked away for some but in the center of their neighborhood for others, 5 Points Cafe recently renovated a dilapidated and run down brick building and turned it into a stunning place. Please do yourself a favor! Next time you are out and about, stop by 5 Points Cafe for a cup of locally sourced coffee or tea while selecting from among an assortment of tasty pastries.

Every summer, nuisance animal calls increase. Discourage visits from skunks, deer, coyote, groundhogs, rabbits, and raccoons. Such animals are naturally attracted to a food source or an opportunity for shelter. Please avoid feeding stray animals and eliminate attractive shelter options on your property. The Cleveland Division of Animal Care & Control is working hard at keeping strays in check. There are traps available at a first come, first served basis if necessary. If you do trap a nuisance animal, please call 216-664-3069 before 9 a.m. Monday through Friday. Someone will be out the same day to retrieve the animal. Another great resource is clevelandmetroparks.com or ODNR Division of Wildlife at wildohio.gov.

Sadly, our West Park community has suffered as a result of fire this summer. Please check that your smoke alarms are working! Such a modest investment can save lives. The Cleveland Division of Fire participates in the American Red Cross Operation Save-A-Life program, which provides free smoke alarms, batteries, and installation to our elderly and low income residents at no cost. Please call Operation Save-A-Life at 216-361-5535 for additional information.

Summer isn't totally over yet! Get out there and enjoy all the remaining outdoor events while the mild weather remains.

All the best!

Marty Keane

Biz Bits

...by Ben Campbell

Stop in for a scoop or two at the recently opened Kamm's Corners Ice Cream Company at 3764 Rocky River Drive in Kamms Plaza. The shop was established by Lisa Kay, who has a deep commitment to West Park and its local businesses through her history as the property manager for the plaza. Customers will find a variety of ice cream flavors, milkshakes, ice cream sandwiches, and root beer floats in a family-friendly atmosphere with affordable prices. And, to top it off, all of the ice cream is homemade. Shop hours are Monday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call 216-417-4382 for more information.

It's hard to believe but almost 10 years have passed since the streetscape improvements were installed in downtown Kamm's Corners. Over the years, this critical public

investment has leveraged significant private investment in new businesses and building renovations.

In order to keep the district attractive and vibrant, the Cleveland Kamm's Area Special Improvement District (CKASID) was formed and recently took three important steps toward these goals.

First, funding has been provided to comprehensively re-plant all of the district's planter beds. Designed by a landscape architect, the selection of the replacement plants and flowers will result in more plant diversity, a broader palette of colors, and year-round seasonal color. Work is scheduled to start this month.

Second, the sidewalks will be power washed.

Finally, CKASID hired local resident Sherry McQueeney to handle regular maintenance duties to keep the district clean by sweeping up sidewalks and curbs, emptying trash containers, and weeding the planter beds. During winter months, Sherry will be focused on keeping the sidewalks clear of snow.

After updating and adding kitchen equipment last year, Dante's Pizza at

4176 Rocky River Drive has turned their attention to freshening-up the appearance of the front of the house. Gone are the old-style booths. In their place are tables and chairs and a new sit-down food bar for a modern yet classic look. As part of a new emphasis on fast-casual dining, Dante's will offer a wider selection of their classic pizza by the slice, individual fried chicken pieces, and jojo fries. Go to danteswestpark.com or call 216-251-0744.

C&S Engineering has relocated from Grayton Road to 17401 Lorain Avenue. While searching for a new site, company officials said they wanted to remain in West Park and were drawn to the Lorain Avenue site due to the number of restaurants and shops within walking distance. The company provides a broad range of engineering, architectural, and planning services.

In collaboration with the new building owner, KCDC, and the City of Cleveland's Storefront Renovation Program, the vacant building at 15708 Lorain Avenue is undergoing a much needed, inside-and-out renovation. The exterior renovations will include cleaning the building's masonry, the



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installation of new storefront windows and doors, awnings, signage, and landscaping. The rear of the building will be occupied by HKM Accounting and Tax Service and the front of the building will be for lease. Construction is projected to conclude in mid-September.

KCDC has been awarded a grant by Cuyahoga County to make enhancements to the public parking lot at West 168th Street and Albers Avenue. The proposed improvements include new landscaping, uplighting of the trees along West 168th and Albers Avenue, new lighting for the walkway between the Back Stage Bar and Walgreens, the demolition of the old parking guard shack and replacement thereof with a new shed to store Kamm's Corners Farmers Market equipment, and new signage for the parking lot. Construction is expected to begin later this summer. The purpose of the project is to supplement the repaving of and improvements to the parking lot funded by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District in a grant to KCDC. The timetable for that project is tentatively slated for the spring of 2018.

After relocating to 17025 Lorain Avenue over the winter, Only In Clev has settled into their new space. The local apparel company and gift shop's move is now complete with the installation of their new sign with design and financial assistance from the City's Storefront Renovation Program.

Construction continues on the Storefront Renovation Program project at 15718 Lorain Avenue, which houses the Lorain Triskett Bike Shop and Crazy Tommy's Audio. The building was painted, and a new storefront window and door were installed. A paved sidewalk and landscaping beds were added. New signage for the tenants will be the final phase of the project.

Work is underway on the new Jimmy John's at 17510 Lorain Avenue. Jimmy John's Franchise, LLC is a sandwich restaurant chain, offering carry-out, dine-in, and delivery. Founded by Jimmy John Liautaud in 1983 and headquartered in Champaign, Illinois, this will be the newest of 2,701 stores nationwide. The opening date is expected to be in late August.

5 Points Coffee & Tea Opens at 5 Points

...by Ben Campbell



While on one of his walks around the neighborhood shortly after moving to West Park, Conor Boylan was intrigued by the vacant, ivy covered brick building at the 5 Points intersection of West Park Road and West 159th Street.

The intrigue quickly evolved into an acquisition of the building and the beginnings of a family venture to

establish the 5 Points Coffee & Tea shop. Conor's business partners are his wife Nora Kelley, his sister-in-law Bridget Kelley, and Lisa Turney.

Conor hails from County Kildare in Ireland and his vision for the building was an opportunity to create a neighborhood gathering place that captured the spirit of the Emerald Isle. The neglected condition of the property required that a substantial interior and exterior renovation would be needed to achieve his vision for the building.

He worked closely with staff of KCDC and the City of Cleveland's Storefront Renovation Program to develop plans for the building's exterior. The renovations and upgrades included removal of the ivy, brick repairs, new awnings, light fixtures, doors, pavement, and an ornamental fence.

The roof was so deteriorated that it had to be replaced. The interior was completely gutted, and his architect provided a new, open floor plan for the conversion to the coffee shop. Customers will have the option of sitting inside or outside on the new patio.



When possible, Conor and his partners try to locally source their products. They will serve the artisan coffees roasted in downtown Cleveland by Phoenix Coffee. Cold brew coffees are sourced from locally based Cold Bloom Coffee. For those who enjoy bold, dark coffee, Conor suggests the nitro cold brew which he says pours like Guinness (without the alcohol content). Ohio City's Storehouse Teas will provide the teas, several of which are organic.

For something to go with your beverage, the menu will include Irish soda bread, scones, croissants, parfaits, and cookies. On weekends, Conor said he will offer an Irish surprise breakfast item.



Since the shop just opened, the following hours may be subject to change: Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 216-452-6637, like them on Facebook, or visit 5pointscafe.com.



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Greek Festival Fun Fills Labor Day Weekend

The George Varouh Cretan Club at West 168th Street and Lorain Avenue (behind Chipotle), proudly presents its 7th Annual Kamm's Corners Greek Festival! The street will be blocked off with huge tents and plenty of outdoor seating to accommodate all the guests getting their "Opa!" on! Admission is free of charge! Parking is available at the municipal lot as well as at metered spots and on nearby side streets.

The event is open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday, September 1, through Sunday, September 3. On Monday (Labor Day) it is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Enjoy the finest Greek cuisine in town directly from the Mediterranean Island of Crete! A full dinner menu includes Greek lamb shank, lamb roasted on the spit, Greek roasted chicken dinners, and of course, Greek specialties such as the following:

Moussaka – layers of eggplant, cheese, and ground meat

Pastitsio – layers of rigatoni, béchamel sauce, and ground meat

Saganaki – flaming Greek cheese

Calamari – fried squid

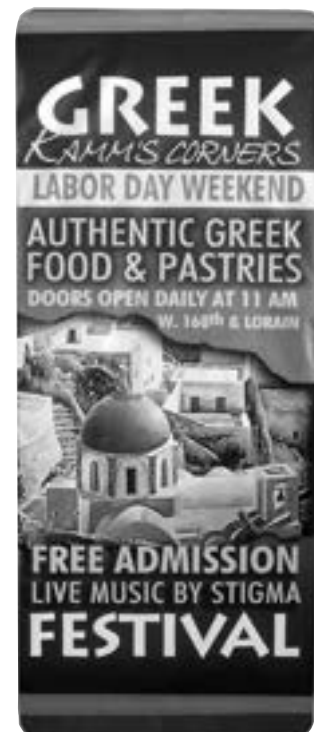
Spanakopita – spinach and cheese in a triangle philo dough

Also on the menu will be Greek salad, roasted potatoes, rice pilaf, and the famous Greek-style green beans, gyros, and pastries. These include baklava, kourambietes, finikia, koulourakia, and galatobouriko. Be sure to try the special baklava sundae! Authentic Greek wines and beers will be offered, too.

DJ Alex Dadas will keep the music going from 2 to 6 p.m. daily under the main tent. Live music will be played both inside and outside the dining hall. Dimitri will entertain patrons in the air conditioned main hall with his unique bouzouki music, and Stigma will electrify the night under the main tent from 6 p.m. until closing, daily.

There will be nightly traditional Greek dance performances in full authentic Cretan costumes from the club's beginner and senior Cretan dance groups as well as from area Greek churches.

Come try your luck at the daily 50/50 raffle. Join the festival for a great time, and get your Greek on!



The 16th Annual Heroes Run

Sunday, September 17

Whether they run, volunteer, donate, or cheer, everyone who participates in The Cleveland Heroes Run honors the Police Officers and Firefighters who gave their lives in the line of duty while either serving the citizens of Cleveland's West Park area or while living in the community.

The popular race attracts runners and walkers from near and far to raise funds for the West Park Cleveland Police & Fire Fighters Memorial Scholarship Fund, established in 2002 to create a lasting Memorial.

The Memorial itself is set in the Memorial Walkway along the west side of Rocky River Drive. At its center is a granite and bronze sculpture overlooking the scenic Metroparks. Designed by local artist and sculptor Paula Blackman, it not only represents the tremendous sacrifice made by these Police Officers and Firefighters, but also offers their families and the community a gathering place to honor their memory.

Sponsored by Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital, the Cleveland Heroes Run takes participants on either a 5-mile race or 2-mile race/walk through the West Park community. Every person sets his or her own pace, and everyone is a winner before the event even begins just by paying tribute to our heroes.

Both races start and finish at Saint Joseph Academy in Cleveland, 3470 Rocky River Drive. The 2-mile fun run/walk starts at 8:30 a.m., and will be on Rocky River Drive. The 5-mile course starts at 8:35 a.m., and it will run through the Metroparks. Awards will be presented at the end of the races to the top three finishing male and female racers in a variety of age groups and categories.

Again this year for children 7 and younger, a kids only race organized by the West Park Family YMCA will take place around the Saint Joseph Academy track. That event is free of charge and begins at 9:30 a.m.

Register online through active.com until 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 14 at 11:59 p.m. Walk-up registration is available on the day of the race. The early entry fee is \$22 through Sunday, August 27, and \$30 late registration through race day. Visit the website at westparkmemorial.org for a link to register for the 5-mile run or 2-mile run/walk.



Kiwanis Club Parade Highlights

The 2017 West Park Kiwanis Club Independence Day parade had wonderful weather and was enjoyed by all.



Far Mor Gets New Owner, New Look, New Menu, and New Name ...by Marilyn Osborne



George McPherson has a soft spot for corner bars that need a little TLC and new life breathed into them. So, when the Far More Cafe went on the market this past year, he snapped it up. A small bar, but with a mighty history, the Far Mor is said to be the longest surviving bar in West Park operating under the same name, at the same location, according to the West Park Historical Society. It was established after the repeal of Prohibition in 1933 by John Farry and John Morley – thus, the name “Far Mor.”

Now, along with a new owner, new look, and new menu, this old establishment finally has a new name: “A bar.”

George understands the Far Mor means a lot to many in the community. “Its long history and the origin of its name will be preserved on a plaque inside the place,” he explained. “It will begin: ‘Far more than A bar . . .’”

Along with that acknowledgement, he plans to continue the tradition of staying a small, intimate place for people to meet. “I’m keeping the tiny fireplace on the mezzanine, which has been updated by removing the railings and adding a knee wall along with fresh paint and wainscoting.

In addition, he has sculpted a little kitchen to the left of the bar just before the mezzanine. “We will offer subs and muffuletta sandwiches along with small personal pizzas and cheese trays,” said George. Muffuletta is both a type of round Sicilian sesame bread and a popular sandwich originating among Italian immigrants in New Orleans, featuring layers of meat and cheese with an olive tapenade.



A newly installed bar, fresh hardware, and other changes brighten up the place, which is set to open by early September. Of course “A bar” also offers beers, craft beers, wines, and spirits.

George has a great customer service track record having successfully owned six bars during the past 14 years. He sold three and still owns In the Drink, Travelers Grille, and this one. “I am a sucker for small, cozy places and look forward to guiding this one to new life.”

Hours are Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily. For more information, call 216-862-5413.

Working Class Brewery Opens in Kamms Plaza

...by Ben Campbell

With the June opening of Working Class Brewery in Kamms Plaza, the West Park neighborhood now has its first micro-brewery and tap room.

The business has been a labor of love for co-owners Carmon Russoniello and Richard Skains. The two first met at the Rocky River Brewery, moved on to assist with the opening of Fat Head’s Brewery in North Olmsted, and then decided to start their own brewery. Richard serves as the head brewer while Carmen is the general manager of the tap room and sales with a focus on placing their products in bars and restaurants throughout greater Cleveland.

Carmen said he and Richard both have working class backgrounds, with his taking place in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He said he learned early on that, “if I wanted it, I had to work for it.”

The brewery is located in the back of the storefront space and is separated from the front tap room by a large cooler. The tap room has an L-shaped bar, tables and chairs, and a high ceiling. There is an industrial feel to the place right down to the time clock and the tap handles.





With this layout, customers can enjoy fresh, high quality beer that is made in the back and then travels the short distance to the tap room. There are a dozen or more styles available with most having names with working class references. Regular offerings will include Jagger IPA (West Coast style), Wing Walker Wheat (German style Hefeweizen), Overtime Session IPA, American Blond, Tinner's Red Ale, and Berry Picker Blackberry Radler.

The remainder of choices will change every few weeks to include seasonal, special editions and experimental one-off brews. Next up is a pale ale and imperial stout.

Beers are sold in a variety of glass sizes from 5-20 ounces and may be purchased as sampler packages. Growlers are available for carry-out. Future plans include offering canned beers.

Working Class Brewery does not have a kitchen but does have a popcorn machine and an old-style chip rack with bags for a buck. Customers are encouraged to bring in food from area restaurants for dining, and the brewery space is located in between Dragon Towers and Red Lantern Kitchen & Bar.

The brewery was opened with support from KCDC, Councilman Marty Keane, the City of Cleveland's Department of Economic Development, and Kamms Plaza owner Jim Carney and property manager Lisa Kay.

Working Class Brewery is located at 17448 Lorain Avenue. Hours are 4 to 10 p.m. from Monday to Thursday, 4 to midnight on Friday, noon to midnight on Saturday, and noon to 8 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, call 216-417-5112, "Friend" them on Facebook or visit online at workingclassbrewery.com.



Working Class Brewery co-owners Carmon Russoniello and Richard Skains.



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Smedley's Named Best Live Music Venue!

...by Marilyn Osborne

Smedley's Bar & Grill opened June 23, 2001 at 17004 Lorain Avenue in the heart of Kamm's Corners. More than 17 years ago, it became one of the first venues to signal new life was returning to the business district, a place where people came to eat, and drink, and socialize.

Owner Sean Mettler had worked in construction for 37 years until his knees became bad. "Then I took a chance and semi-retired to buy this place," he explained. Over the years, he's made many improvements, inside and out. For example, the old wooden storefront was completely removed and the new facade was designed with a stucco material in two shades of green. Large storefront windows and an oak framed glass door provided an open and inviting appearance.

Then a long black canvas awning extended across the top of the windows and a new sign with gold letters added the finishing touches to the exterior renovation. Inside, he installed a new wooden dance floor and stage area for bands. Carpeting and a terrazzo floor restored beauty to the interior, but the stage area proved to be a popular focal point for live music Thursday through Saturday.

"We feature the best jazz, blues, and rock bands in the area with no cover charge," said Sean. In the past ten years, Smedley's placed in the top four vote-getters for "Best Live Music Venue" on the Fox 8 Hotlist. This year they placed first for the fourth time, beating Beachland Ballroom and House of Swing.

Thursdays are jam nights, popular with the crowds. Scene Magazine just named Smedley's "Best Jam Bar." Local stars are apt to sit in, such as Robert Lockwood Junior did shortly before he passed away. "He had respiratory issues and planned to stay only a half hour, but he ended up staying for three!" said Sean. This was in the days before the public smoking ban, so the air would become thick with cigarette smoke. Those days are long gone.

Smedley's offers great food at all times of the day, starting with breakfast at 8 a.m. Breakfast is served all day until the kitchen closes at midnight. Favorites include the breakfast burrito and also the country breakfast with eggs any style and country-fried steak served with home fries and toast. The lunch and dinner menu is filled with a variety of appetizers and sandwiches, including quesadillas and French bread pizza.



Owner Sean Mettler with a typically happy Smedley's crowd!

"I am particularly proud to serve a 10-ounce cowboy burger" said Sean. "We slaughter the whole cow and grind all the prime cuts except for the tenderloin."

The menu also offers thick and meaty Kansas City cut ribs purchased from the West Side Market, jumbo wings, and a 12-ounce Black Angus strip steak dinner with all the sides for \$10 on Tuesdays (\$11 other days). The cod dinner is made from Grey Wolf's original recipe shared by a chef from the original Brookpark restaurant. It comes with fries and coleslaw. Popular on Fridays, the dinner is served to order all week long as well.

Smedley's gives back to the neighborhood by supporting several local charities and military benefits including the Wounded Warriors Project and the 3rd Battalion 25th Marines. "I grew up in this neighborhood since I was four years old," Sean said. "And I'm proud to own a business in my home town and be able to give back."

According to Sean, Smedley's has a comfortable, living room atmosphere, where everyone is welcome. "We take pride in our food, music, and atmosphere," he said. "It's all about treating people with respect and having a good time in here."

He credits his exemplary team of managers for their role in making Smedley's a success: Cherry Mullins, Traci Fittante, and Barb Taunton. "I just entertain and make our guests laugh," said Sean. "They do all the work!"

Enjoy good food, music, and fun at Smedley's from 8 to 2:30 a.m. seven days a week. For more information, please call 216-941-0124.

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Annual Town Meeting Highlights

KCDC's 40th Annual Town Meeting returned to the auditorium of Saint Joseph Academy, 3470 Rocky River Drive, on June 20.

The informative evening was free of charge. On their way in, guests visited the display tables of local non-profit agencies to learn more about their programs. The evening's agenda included updates on neighborhood initiatives such as the newly created Special Improvement District for Downtown Kamm's Corners, and Councilman Marty Keane provided news about city-related issues. He also recognized KCDC with a proclamation from the City of Cleveland for our 40 years of service to the community.

The following awards were presented:

Bob Bohr Safety Award:

Commander Tom McCartney. A great "no-nonsense" leader, he served as our 1st District Commander and is now commander of the 3rd District.

Community Impact Award:

Patrick Burke. Founder of West Park Barber Shop, West Park Beauty Salon, and the new Premier Lounge, Patrick employs 40 people and plans to open a barber school, too. His stores occupy nearly 5,000 square feet of retail space in downtown Kamm's Corners, eliminating long vacant spaces.

Emerging Leader Award:

Ken & Jessica Hatfield. Owners of Hatfield's Goode Grub in downtown Kamm's Corners, they also operate a food truck that is busy all over town, bringing business back to Kamm's Corners. They also pulled up stakes and purchased a house here in West Park.

Congratulations to all the award recipients.

Our always-popular "Spontaneous Raffle" rounded out the evening with gifts provided by local businesses. Cookies from K & K Portage Market and beverages were served afterward.



Commander Tom McCartney receives the Bob Bohr Safety Award with Bob's daughter Jo Ann Bohr present.



Ken and Jessica Hatfield accepting the Emerging Leader Award from Steve Lorenz.

We are grateful to Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital for their sponsorship of this key community event and to Saint Joseph Academy for hosting us.

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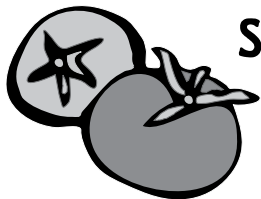


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On the Corner of Fresh and Fun!

Enjoy the bounty of summer at Kamm's Corners Farmers Market, where local farmers showcase their goods at the corner of West 168th Street and Albers Avenue behind Walgreens every Sunday – also known as the corner of Fresh and Fun!

Meet the folks who live off the land and care deeply about it. Pick up vegetables and fruits that are grown for flavor and not shelf life! Farmers, artisans, and professionals participating at our market come from as close as a mile away to dozens of miles away, but virtually all of the offerings are from northern Ohio and are grown or made by the vendors themselves.

Think of the energy saved when you buy food from only a few miles away and not shipped from a few thousand! Fill your shopping bags each Sunday to take home what's popping locally. Our operating hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. through October 8.

Now in our 11th season with more than 25 vendors, the market boasts a breadth of offerings. This includes vegetables and fruits of course, but also meats, cheeses, bread, Irish specialties, and eggs. Some of the participants offer organic produce; others offer hormone-free, naturally raised meats. You'll find bread and pastry, scented soaps, olive oil, and everything in between. We even offer treats and other goodies for dogs, which are now welcome at the market on a leash.

While shopping, enjoy lively musical entertainment from locally and sometimes internationally famous artists. Very talented people grace our stage every market Sunday, presenting a wide range of musical styles from heart warming ballads to foot-stomping bluegrass, pop, and rock.

At 11:30 a.m. a weekly chef demo features local chefs demonstrating their culinary talents. Many utilize produce from the market vendors showing what can be done with the great fresh produce available at our market.

At the bottom of this page is a list of the established as well as new vendors that visit our market with their wonderful offerings.

Each week's market also features at least one artisan presenting a range of work from gemstone jewelry, photography, and hair accessories to cloth bags and string art. What a convenient chance to purchase something unique for yourself or as a gift for others.

A healthy living component of the market may include chair massages, free blood pressure checks, cholesterol and glucose screening, and advice on healthy eating.

So grab your reusable shopping bags and head over to the market on Sundays, located in the Municipal Lot at 168th Street and Albers Avenue. With live music from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., chef demos at 11:30 p.m., art, and more, the Kamm's Corners Farmers Market serves as THE community gathering space.

Meet on the corner of Fresh and Fun every Sunday at the Kamm's Corners Farmers Market.

Perennial Exchange takes place October 1st!

One of our most requested market events, the perennial exchange, takes place Sunday, October 1. Guests can make friends and trade perennial plants with other market-goers. Note: The perennial exchange is a trade-only event. Cash transactions are not permitted.

We Gratefully Recognize the Sponsors of the Kamm's Corners Farmers Market

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Kamms Plaza Shopping Center ♦ Neighborhood Connections
River's Edge Center ♦ Rocksolid Stone Works
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Please give our sponsors your support!

Visit kc-fm.org for timely market information. Call market manager Bill Markowitz at 216-252-6559 ext. 1400, or email him at kcfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Our Family of Vendors includes: Please Note! Vendor schedules may vary. Visit kc-fm.org for schedule updates!

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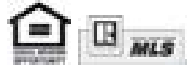
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Another Step Forward for SocksPlus to Support the Homeless

Community West Foundation teamed up with the Lake Erie Crushers as the presenting sponsor of the baseball game on Friday, July 14 to continue their work of helping the homeless. It was SocksPlus night at Sprenger Stadium to collect socks for men, women and children facing homelessness.

It was a great night for a baseball game during this Christmas in July event. They celebrated with the Crushers team mascot, Stomper, and Santa himself made his mid-summer appearance.

There is nothing better to see than neighbor helping neighbor. It was very special to witness the community's generosity as baseball fans filled the giant sock and made cash donations to help the homeless. SocksPlus night was an example of the type of unique event that sets Community West Foundation apart.

Community West Foundation treated the Boys and Girls Clubs of Lorain County to all the fun that a baseball game brings. When asked about how they enjoyed the experience, many of the kids said this was their first time attending a Crushers game. Everyone had a great time!

Thank you to all that took part in SocksPlus Night at the stadium by donating socks and sharing financial gifts. The homeless are especially appreciative of socks, which is the number one requested and needed item.

Help spread the word about SocksPlus. The Kamm's Corners neighborhood is well known for its generosity and has helped support SocksPlus. Join the movement and host your own sock drive or other activity to help the homeless. Learn more about our SocksPlus program at communitywestfoundation.org/events/socksplus.



People attending SocksPlus night at Sprenger Stadium helped stuff the Giant Sock by bringing a pair of socks (or more) to help their neighbors experiencing poverty and homelessness.



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Local Public Arts Funding Supports and Enriches Our Community

Over the past ten years, Kamm's Corners Development Corporation has received nearly \$30,000 in support from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC), which has helped to present the Kamm's Corners Summer Arts and Entertainment Series. This type of funding strengthens West Park and enriches the quality of life for people of all ages.

The financial support received from the residents of Cuyahoga County through CAC helps to present a wide breadth of musical, visual, and culinary arts at family friendly events as part of the Summer Arts and Entertainment Series. Each year, the series launches with The Hooley on Kamm's Corners™ on the second Saturday of May and continues weekly throughout the summer at Kamm's Corners Farmers Markets every Sunday from June through October. It is also a feature of Asphalt Cinema, a free outdoor movie evening on the third Fridays of June, July, and August at Impett Park.

We are grateful for the volunteer work of the residents and business owners who take part in planning and running these events. Their work helps to make the series such a great success! In addition, special thanks to the residents of Cuyahoga County for supporting this program through a public grant from CAC.

Funding from CAC is different from other funders because Cuyahoga County residents voted to create this agency to fund the amazing arts and culture movement with local tax dollars. As a result, many arts and culture organizations, programs, and events in Cuyahoga County are publicly funded by CAC.

Its sole funding source is a dedicated cigarette tax levied within Cuyahoga County. Created by voters in 2006, CAC won new life last November, voters said "yes" to Issue 8. That renewed tax, which was set to expire in January, 2017, will provide another ten years for CAC to invest in local arts and culture programs.



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Men's Health Month

Educate yourself about elevated PSA

A prostate-specific antigen (PSA) level is often mentioned when discussing men's health, but many men don't know what this is or how it can affect them.

PSA is a protein produced by the prostate cells. The PSA level is checked by a simple blood test. If the blood test shows an elevated PSA level, a digital rectal exam (using a gloved finger to feel for lumps or abnormalities in the prostate gland) is done to screen for prostate cancer.

An elevated PSA level doesn't necessarily mean that prostate cancer is present. An enlarged prostate, inflammation, and urinary tract infection may cause the level to rise. PSA levels often naturally increase as men age.

"In most cases, early-stage prostate cancer does not cause symptoms," says Anthony Avallone, MD, a urologic oncologist who practices at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital.

Are you at risk?

Prostate cancer is a common disease; one in six men develop it. Certain factors place men at increased risk.

Risk factors for developing prostate cancer include:

- Family history: A family history of the disease significantly increases risk.
- Race: African-American men develop the disease more often.

The physician should discuss the screening process, risks, and benefits. "It's important for the patient to be informed and make the decision to get screened with their physician," stresses Dr. Avallone.

An elevated PSA level can be a sign of prostate cancer. If a patient has a persistently elevated PSA level, the next step is a prostate biopsy. If prostate cancer is found, it's often able to be cured when treated.

It's important to get screened.

The discussion about yearly prostate cancer screening should begin at age 40 for



men with risk factors. For all other men, it can wait until they are 55 and should continue through at least age 70.

"Most often, an elevated PSA level may not be serious. Getting screened will help to ease your mind or find issues early," says Dr. Avallone.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Avallone or another Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital urologist, call 440-695-4000. Cleveland Clinic offers same-day appointments.

Five Tips to Mentally Prepare for Weight Loss After Bariatric Surgery

Emotional wellness is vital for successful bariatric surgery. Cleveland Clinic bariatric specialists offer five recommendations to prepare you to achieve a healthier weight.

1. Start with realistic expectations. "Most weight loss occurs 12 to 16 months after bariatric surgery," says Stacy Brethauer, MD, Director of Bariatric Surgery at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital. "While most patients don't become lean, most do reach their goals and become more active, take less medication for metabolic diseases like diabetes, and enjoy a better quality of life."

2. Don't go it alone. Surgery is only the first step. Healthy eating and physical activity are necessary to sustain weight loss. Recruit a family member or friend to help you stay motivated. Your bariatric team will also help. Lifelong engagement with your weight loss team and support system are essential to long-term success.

"Patients are most successful when they follow up with our team, including weight loss specialists and dietitians," says Toms Augustin, MD, MPH, a Cleveland Clinic bariatric surgeon who sees patients in Fairview Park and Avon. "We recommend patients check in every few months for the first year and then annually, or whenever they feel they're having challenges."

3. Confront food-related behavior. Rather than using food to deal with daily stress, focus on long-term goals. Recognize behaviors that can slow your progress such as eating too many carbohydrates or eating at night. Think about ridding yourself of any pain or illness caused by excess weight.

4. Deal with all emotional issues. Dealing with depression or anxiety can



Stacy Brethauer, MD

make recovery from surgery and the "learning curve" after surgery even more challenging. Work with your doctor or a counselor to maintain a positive attitude about the healthy changes you're making.

5. Understand the risks of negative behaviors. Alcohol is high in calories and makes you more susceptible to overeating. Tobacco increases your risk of surgical complications. Make every effort to avoid these substances. A sedentary lifestyle will sabotage your early results, so find ways to stay active and build physical activity into your lifestyle.

Bariatric surgery can change your life for the better, and not just by helping you lose weight. "Surgery changes most patients' lifestyle and behaviors," says Dr. Brethauer. "It jump-starts new behaviors that help people live healthier. Once they reach their goal after surgery, the majority of patients tell me there is no going back."

Residents on Cleveland's West Side now can get Cleveland Clinic bariatric services closer to home. Fairview Hospital offers surgical weight-loss procedures, and the Richard E. Jacobs Health Center in Avon offers pre-op evaluation, post-op follow-up, and other weight-loss support services.

Visit clevelandclinic.org/bariatrics to sign up for a free informational seminar. Or call Cleveland Clinic's Bariatric and Metabolic Institute at 800-339-9829. Cleveland Clinic offers same-day appointments.



Anthony Avallone, MD



Toms Augustin, MD

Neighborhood Tavern Gets VIP Treatment

...by Ben Campbell

The renovations underway at the VIP Inn are turning heads on Rocky River Drive. For decades, the inside of this retro-cool bar at 4107 Rocky River Drive was hidden behind solid brick walls and steel doors.

In 2015, Scene Magazine identified the VIP as one of Cleveland's best dive bars. (Think of "dive" as a positive reference.) Sometimes referred to as West Park's "Cheers," this establishment fits snugly into the mold of a classic neighborhood tavern. The VIP was opened in 1993 by a partnership consisting of Kevin and Debbie Lowry, Marty Lowry, and Jimmy and Kerry McManamon.

Over the last year or so, the partnership had been talking about making upgrades to the building to create a more open and inviting appearance. With design and financial assistance from the City of Cleveland's Storefront Renovation Program, the partners decided to move forward with renovations that would transform the exterior appearance of the building and enhance its curb appeal.

The building renovation project includes opening the solid facade wall with large windows, replacing the steel front door with a new full-light door, cladding the walls with a stone veneer, and installing new exterior lighting. A stamped concrete patio has been poured, covered by a pergola-like structure, and enclosed with an ornamental metal fence. The existing signage will be replaced with an attractive, illuminated monument sign. Flower boxes will accent the improvements.

Debbie said they are adopting a dog-friendly patio policy so that customers can bring their dogs along with them to the VIP.

While the renovations continue outside, the VIP owners and staff are focused on making changes to its bar food menu that now includes crowd favorites like chicken wings, burgers, and other sandwiches. Plans call for adding seasonal items and, in general, expanding the menu choices. Home-cooked specials will be featured regularly and a prime rib dinner will be offered on Saturday nights.

The VIP will remain open during the renovation project, which is expected to be completed by September. Stay tuned for an announcement of the grand opening of the patio once the renovations have concluded.

The VIP is open every day except holidays. For more information, call 216-476-2411 or check them out on Facebook.



Architectural rendering of the VIP Inn renovation.

How Do You Age Out Loud?

"Keep the faith and keep moving!"

Every May, the nation celebrates Older Americans Month to recognize the many contributions of older Americans. In Cleveland, each council member recognizes one outstanding senior for Senior Day. This year, Councilman Marty Keane chose Carole Anne Kilbane Kennedy. She was born on August 26, 1933, to Michael James and Mary Agnes Kilbane. Carole has lived in the Greater Cleveland area for more than 80 years. She has three children, Patrick, Mary Agnes, and Therese along with four grandchildren, Mary Catherine, Alannah, Aine, and Patrick. Well known for her laughter and humor, Carole is a cherished member of our community.



*Ward 17 Senior of the Year,
Carole Anne Kilbane Kennedy.*

She graduated from Lourdes Academy at West 41st Street and Bridge Avenue and began her career by working the mail desk at Erie Railroad. Carole's hard working mindset enabled her to move up in the company. After 43 years of dedicated service, she retired in 1995 at age 62, providing time for being a grandma with gusto. For the next 20 years, she enjoyed loving, caring for, and watching her four grandchildren grow into remarkable adults.

A proud Irish woman, Carole is also active in many Irish groups, including the Ancient Order of Hibernians, which is the largest Irish Catholic organization in the United States. In 2015, Carole was nominated as the Hibernian of the Year. She is also a member of the West Side Irish American Club, known for its charity work. And, she is a member of Saint Patrick's Parish in West Park.

In her free time, Carole most enjoys spending time with her friends and family. When asked what she adores most about her hometown, she said, "Cleveland is where my friends and family are. I love it."



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Remembering Chris Bike Shop

...by Gary Swilik

A bicycle was once every kid's standard mode of transportation. Whether you had a brand-new Schwinn with chrome fenders, whitewall tires, fancy handlebar grips with streamers, a front basket and battery-powered lights, or a used bike cobbled together from older models, it was your ticket to freedom! If this era lives in your memories, you might recall Chris Bike Shop on Lorain Avenue which served West Park for over three decades.

"I remember it well," says Debbie Hendricks of Corona, California. "All my bikes came from Chris Bike Shop. The first bike I got was a Schwinn with a banana seat. Later I got a ten-speed there, too. You went nowhere but Chris Bike Shop for a bike!"

"We all went to Chris Bike Shop," agrees Gary A. Hudak of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. "As a youngster, I often went to Chris Bike Shop to get my tire fixed," says Leo E. Pettry of Cleveland.

"My Grandpa, John Resso, bought my brother his first bike from Chris Bike Shop," recounts Barbara Resso Sharp of Wadsworth, Ohio. "It was a surprise for



Chris Bike Shop opened in 1961 at 12224 Lorain Avenue. Photo 1962, courtesy of Chris Steimle III.

my brother's birthday. This was about 1962. He was only six or seven at the time. I think it was a re-furbished Schwinn. A boy's bike, blue and totally cool! I remember being in the store and admiring all the shiny bikes. It was something awesome my Grandpa did for my brother."

"Chris had minibike frames and motors. Everything you needed to build your own," recalls Tony Prosowski of Cleveland. "I'd go in every couple of weeks for parts to add to my mini neighborhood noise maker. It was a mom-and-pop shop. They were friendly and knowledgeable, always ready to answer questions, such as what clutch or throttle to use."

"I remember looking in the window at all the new bikes hanging from the ceiling and lined up on the floor," reminiscences Joe Brasty of Strongsville. "They always had the coolest new bikes and parts in stock. Chris was the best! He treated you well even on a small sale. He was an honest businessman and a truly generous and knowledgeable man."

Chris Bike Shop was owned by Chris and Betty Steimle, for whom it was both a business and labor of love. Their eldest son, Chris Steimle III, of Middleburg Heights, tells us how his parents met and started the shop.

"My father's grandparents came to Cleveland from Germany," says Chris. "My dad was born here in 1927 and grew up on Cleveland's East Side. My mom came from a family of seven children and grew up at West 99th Street and Almira Avenue. They met during at a dance at the Aragon Ballroom on West 25th Street. They were married in 1946 in Petersburg, Virginia, while my dad was in the army at nearby Camp Lee." The Steimles later went on to raise a family of three sons and a daughter.

"My father was an enterprising man who loved to keep busy," Chris explains. "He started out in my grandparents' basement on Benham Avenue in the 1940s while still a teenager. He'd buy old bikes

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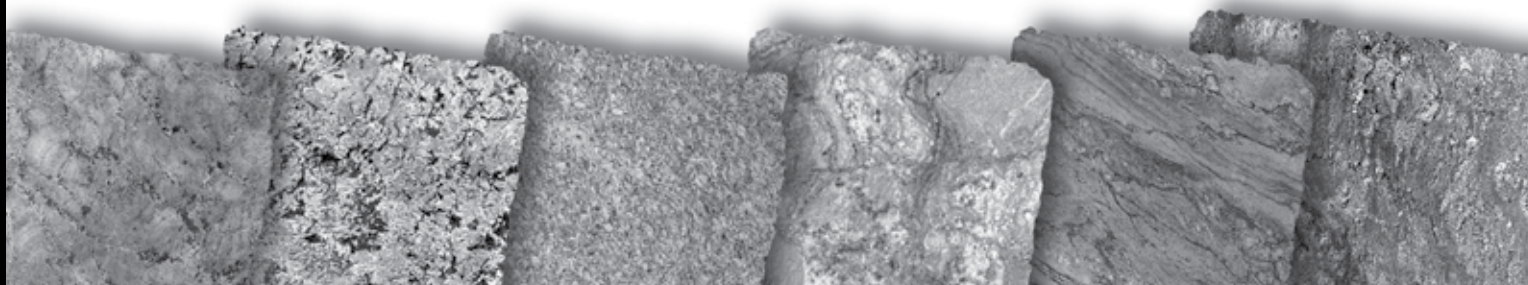
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from the junkyard and rebuild them himself. He'd scrape and repaint the frame, wire brush the rims, replace the brakes, re-spoke and align the wheels – create virtually a new bike. Of course, he couldn't sell them as new."

"In the 1950s he moved his business into a commercial building at the corner of East 93rd and Benham Avenue," Chris continues. "I have some nice memories of that old neighborhood. In 1961, my dad opened the West Side store at 12224 Lorain Avenue and we moved into a nice four-bedroom apartment over the shop. The street was busy, but you got used to the noise. If you got bored, you could look out the front window at Lorain or sit on the front stoop. The bus stop and mailbox were right across the street from us."

"From 1961 to 1964 my parents kept the East Side store open at the same time," says Chris. "This was in addition to Dad's job at the railroad. And he usually worked the all-night shift. He hated to be idle, but I don't know how he did it all."

"My Mom was a big part of the business," Chris tells us. "Her given name was 'Elizabeth' but she didn't like it and always went by 'Betty.' She ran the East Side shop by herself for awhile. Dad would go over and pick her up each evening, pick up any repair work she'd taken in, and drop off the work he'd finished the night before. She was a bookkeeper and excellent typist. She had the gift of gab and could get along with anyone. Customers would come in just to talk with her and ask her advice."

"Once a guy came into the shop on Lorain while Mom was the only one there," reveals Chris. "He had a bad back and asked if someone could get a power mower out of his car trunk. Mom came out, reached in, lifted the mower out of the trunk, and set it on the street. The guy was flabbergasted."

"When I was young we had lots of walk-in business," recalls Chris. "Dad offered new and used bikes, parts, accessories,

mini-bikes, and repair service. It was a complete all-service bike shop. Lots of kids came in."

Indeed, the author remembers pedaling up to Chris Bike Shop with friends several times in a single day to buy decals for our bikes. We plastered colorful decals of rockets, monsters, fierce lions and tigers – and the ever popular flaming skull – all over our bikes in a competition to see who could attract the most attention.

"I remember those decals," laughs Chris. "My Dad displayed them high on the shop wall just inside the door. Each decal was numbered and we had a file behind the counter with corresponding numbered envelopes."

"The business changed with the rise of the big discount stores," Chris explains. "A lot of the walk-in business dried up when Kmart opened with their tremendous buying power. That kind of put an end to new bike sales for my Dad. He still sold and repaired bikes, but he began to rely more on sharpening and repairing lawn mowers and doing welding for customers. He'd learned the skill as a young man and could do any kind of welding you needed."

Chris tells us, "At the end of a long day, my dad liked to fire up the grill and cook pork chops, steaks, hamburgers or hot dogs on the patio behind the building. He loved to cook out with friends and family."

"Dad retired from the railroad in 1989," says Chris. "My parents finally closed the bike shop in 1993 and moved to Middleburg Heights. He kept his tools and equipment in a three-car garage out back where he planned on doing some work in his retirement. Unfortunately, that didn't happen due to some health problems."

After 58 years of marriage, Chris Steimle passed away in 2005 at the age of 77. His wife Betty joined him when she died at 85 years of age in 2011.

"I think my parents missed their shop and the many friends who would stop in," says their son Chris. "I feel very fortunate to have so many wonderful memories of the bike shop and West Park where I grew up. I'm sure Mom and Dad are busy in their bike shop in Heaven."



*Chris and Betty J. Steimle, proprietors of Chris Bike Shop.
Courtesy of Chris Steimle III.*



*Chris Bike Shop. December 1968.
Courtesy of Chris Steimle III.*



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A Brief History of KCDC

...by Steve Lorenz, Executive Director

As this is our 40th anniversary year, I want to offer a brief history of the organization.

In 1977, a small group of residents and business owners were concerned about the deteriorating condition of the Kamm's Corners central business district. They realized there was a direct relationship between the neighborhood's businesses and the fortunes of the adjacent and nearby residential neighborhoods. Something had to be done to reverse a creeping trend of disinvestment and decay.

In June of that year, a steering committee met at Perkins Pancake House, which is now Gene's Place, to form an organization, name it, and set up its by-laws. Attending the meeting were:

Pat Boesken, from the Record Gallery

Russ Geiger, of Geiger's Menswear

Thomas M. Keane, Councilman, Ward 4 (*father of Councilman Marty Keane*)

Ed Ross, from Fairview Hospital

Howard Schreiber, owner of Schreiber Jewelers

Carolyn Verlie, with the City of Cleveland, Division of Economic Development

Michael F. Wish, owner of Kamm's Barbershop (*the "Mayor of Kamm's Corners"*)

That organization was named Kamm's Area Development Corporation and became known as KAMCO. Howard Schreiber was elected its first chairman of the board, and Carolyn Verlie was the first Executive Director.

Other early leaders of the organization included Bob Bohr, Steve Campanella, Norma Buchwald, Chuck Humbert, Paul Gelman, Deanna Hiros, and Dan Chambers. Their mission was simple. Bring an organized approach to help revitalize and spruce up the business district.

In the early years, the organization was basically a Chamber of Commerce style merchants group. There wasn't much money to really affect change, but they forged ahead and continued to organize clean ups and promote the business district the best they could with the resources they had.

The federal Community Development Block Grant program changed the game when it was rolled out in the late '70s. The development corporation became eligible for funding to eliminate blight in the neighborhood. And of course, we applied. That gave us the ability to pay salaries and overhead, and as the money flowed from the federal government, through the City of Cleveland, and then out to us, we became much closer partners with the city and began to work hand in hand. Eventually, we began administering city programs such as the Code Enforcement Partnership and the Storefront Renovation Program.

In the 1990's, the organization was led by Chuck Owen, and that is also when our work began to diversify somewhat. This was also the time that Kamm's Corners Magazine was born as a 16 page black and white publication, going to a color cover in 2006 and doubling in size. A color centerfold was added in 2007. Chuck also worked with the board of trustees to change our name to Kamm's Corners Development Corporation (KCDC). Gone was the old KAMCO moniker that sounded to many like the name of a transmission shop.

For most of that time there was a full time staff of four people that rented offices in the current KCDC building--the building that we now own at 17407 Lorain Avenue. That was also the era where former councilman Mike Dolan used his ward allocation to fund the planning of the streetscape improvements. That planning process took a couple of years to come to fruition. I served on the board of trustees of KCDC during those years.

I began as Executive Director almost 16 years ago, in June of 2001. The city had by that time agreed to fund the transformational streetscape project which KCDC had helped plan and Councilman Dolan had championed. The plan called for all new sidewalks, new concrete irrigated planters, decorative crosswalks, and new historic light poles with underground wiring.

When the preliminary engineering work started in 2005, it began a long process of construction that was very difficult for our business community. But when it was finally completed, it touched off a wave of new development that has continued to this day. While helping to put Kamm's Corners back on the map as a vital commercial district, KCDC was also busy with many other initiatives.

In 2003, we began the Asphalt Cinema movie series in the summer. Why was it called Asphalt Cinema? Because we showed the movie in the empty municipal parking lot, right on the asphalt. Essentially a drive-in movie, without the cars! Can you even imagine trying that on a Friday night in that parking lot now?

In 2006, with a dedicated group of neighborhood volunteers, we founded the Kamm's Corners Farmers Market, which you can read more about in the article on page 14. We were on the cutting edge of the local foods movement, and now in it's 11th year, we just won the Best of the West award from Cleveland Magazine!

In 2007, we purchased the former Valley Furniture or Elgin Furniture building, and moved our offices in. We worked hard to compete for the US Census Bureau office as our main floor tenant when Elgin Furniture moved out. The Census invested more than \$200,000 in improvements which eventually made way for Fairview Hospital to move in. The building is fully occupied now with our new tenant C&S Engineering, and the just-inked lease of the rest of the first floor as the new home of the West Park Historical Society!

And, in 2009, we started The Hooley on Kamm's Corners, already regarded as one of the best and most well attended street festivals in the region. We had 30,000 guests this year! The Hooley is a ton of work for us, and I want to acknowledge our office manager Jackie Wohleber who is the brains behind it and does most of the work.

In 2010, we began renovating vacant and abandoned houses we acquire through the Cuyahoga County Land Bank, selling them at market prices to people who plan to move into them. This returns properties to the tax rolls and brings new residents to the neighborhood.

In 2014, we purchased the Alber Building on Lorain Avenue, renovated it, and brought in the office of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, and more recently the custom apparel shop Only in Clev. A great store with lots of West Park and Cleveland themed apparel.

In 2015, we were successful in rallying the property owners in Kamm's Corners to assess themselves to create the Cleveland Kamm's Area Special Improvement District, creating a dedicated funding stream to maintain and beautify the area.

Today, the staff consists of four full time, and two part-time people. We have a volunteer board of twelve people. The board consists of neighborhood residents, merchants, and business people as it always has---a hardworking group that has the interest of the neighborhood as their highest priority. Their leadership, along with the guidance and financial support of Councilman Marty Keane and the City of Cleveland has enabled our success. We hope to continue our work for many years to come.

Thank you – especially thanks for your support.



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NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT!

Keeping it in the Corners!



Newly opened in July is Kamm's Corners Ice Cream Company, offering premium ice cream made on site in Kamms Plaza from secret recipes. The shop at 3764 Rocky River Drive is owned and operated by Lisa Kay, who has been instrumental in the success of the plaza for nearly 30 years. When she decided to pursue her dream and vision for a community based, family oriented ice cream shop, Kamms Plaza was the obvious best place to be.

Lisa tells us that "Our mission is to provide the West Park neighborhood with an over the top family experience" and the bright decor certainly reflects that goal. The shop supports local business partners and community service organizations.

"Keeping it in the Corners" is her theme as she offers premium ice cream at family affordable prices. Her freshly made ice creams have a delightfully enjoyable smooth and creamy flavor that will keep you coming back for more – guaranteed! The shop is open Monday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call 216-417-4382 or visit kammscornersicecream.com for more information.

Kamm's Calendar

Kamm's Corners Farmers Market

Sundays through October 8
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
West 168th Street & Albers Avenue

Greek Festival

Labor Day Weekend

September 1 through 4
West 168th Street & Lorain Avenue

Star Trek for Heroes Fundraiser

September 5, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
PJ McIntyre's Irish Pub
17119 Lorain Avenue

The 15th Annual Cleveland Heroes Run

September 16, 8:30 a.m.
Saint Joseph Academy
3470 Rocky River Drive

For information regarding events call
216-252-6559, ext. 1500 or visit
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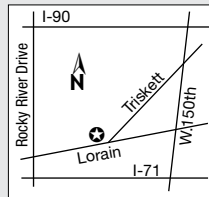
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For more than 40 years, KCDC has been working for you and your community. We administer the Storefront Renovation program, bring new businesses to the community, produce Kamm's Corners Magazine, and conduct neighborhood events such as Kamm's Corners Farmers Market, Asphalt Cinema, and The Hooley on Kamm's Corners™.

Thanks for your support.

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Christmas in July

Long time West Park residents are well familiar with decades of Kamms Plaza Winter Wonderland events. The 2016 Winter Wonderland was the last one to be held in the December time frame as there is no longer space available at the plaza. But the Kamms Plaza Christmas spirit lives on in an outdoor summer celebration of yuletide cheer! Smiling families came out to greet tropical Santa, ride the Euclid Beach rocket ship, and enjoy free hot dogs and other refreshments.



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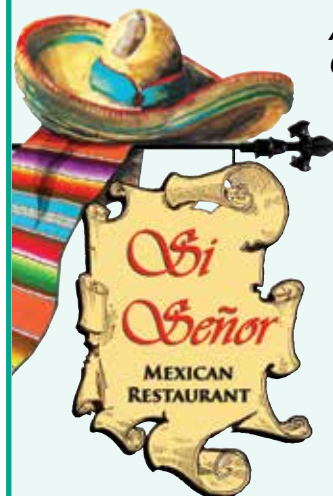
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