

The background of the entire page is a photograph of pink magnolia flowers in bloom. In the top-left corner, there is a color calibration chart with several colored squares: light blue, orange, dark blue, light green, and light purple. The title 'WEST PARK' is written in large, bold, light green capital letters, and 'MAGAZINE' is written in smaller, white capital letters below it.

WEST PARK

MAGAZINE

WEST PARK KAMM'S NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT | **SPRING 2021**

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

This has been a busy winter in West Park Kamm's! In the coming pages, we're excited to share the results of many months of work with our partners on projects like the Old Lorain Road Study, the renovation of the West Park branch of Cleveland Public Library, and new businesses that have opened or are in development. Despite the current health situation, entrepreneurs continue to make West Park Kamm's their home and see the benefits of operating in this supportive and vibrant neighborhood.

Our team has also been busy preparing for summer 2021 programming. We're building on the successes of last summer's adapted Kamm's Corners Farmers Market, reimaging the Lawn Chair Cinema and Walk on Wednesdays, and developing new sustainability projects that will add resources like free rain barrels and trees to enhance this summer's programming.

All of us at WPKND look forward to sharing this work, gathering feedback, supporting our neighbors facing challenges, and connecting directly with as many of you as possible this spring! Here are a few ways to get involved in the neighborhood:

1. Attend the March 23 virtual presentation to learn more about the Old Lorain Road Study (details page 14-15).
2. Join us for summer programming and neighborhood updates on May 12 in a virtual community meeting (details page 10-11).
3. Plan a virtual block club meet and greet with West Park Kamm's staff tailored to your street! Reach out to Devon, our Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator, to plan a date; devon@westparkkamms.org or 216-252-6559 x 1000.
4. Seek assistance with housing repairs or concerns from JD Smith at jd@westparkkamms.org or 216-252-6559 x 1300.
5. Follow us on social media, @WestParkKamms, for updates and announcements on important neighborhood projects!

All of us are looking forward to the coming warmer temperatures and sunnier skies. As always, we invite your feedback and contribution to our organization and neighborhood.

Happy Spring!



Rosemary Mudry | Executive Director



Todd Sheppard | Board President



The vision of West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development is to promote, develop, and guide the West Park neighborhood as the best place to live, learn, work, shop, and play.

West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development

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A YEAR IN REVIEW

By Ben Campbell

It goes without saying that 2020 was a difficult, challenging year for many of us including the business community. Let's spend a few minutes celebrating the many entrepreneurs and business owners in West Park Kamm's that forged ahead with plans or adapted quickly to meet changing needs in 2020 and also take a look at some encouraging developments on the horizon.

In early 2020, two beauty salons opened on Rocky River Drive—Art Beat Nail Salon at 4159 Rocky River Drive and The Beauty Cartel at 4251 Rocky River Drive.

In March, Hatfield's Goode Grub doubled down and expanded into the space next door at 16700 Lorain Avenue. This decision allowed them to offer more menu and drink choices and to provide new comedy and music entertainment options for the neighborhood.

Over the summer, Mobility City started their new business for sale, rental and repair of mobility products in Kamms Plaza. Inward Compass Yoga opened a new yoga studio at 15903 West Park Road. A new ownership group purchased and reopened Bella Pizza at 4475 Rocky River Drive. Primetime Delivery and Warehouse, a second generation local business, relocated from Brook Park to 18200 Brookpark Road. The company provides customer-focused delivery and warehouse services to businesses and institutions throughout the Midwest and across the country. Saint Joseph Academy opened Fitzmaurice Hall and renovated their Maker-space to 4,800 square feet!

We saw many of our local businesses employ their skills and talents in adapting to the impact of COVID-19. The Public House, 17219 Lorain Avenue, established a temporary outdoor patio and PJ McIntyre's, 17719 Lorain Avenue, added a second outdoor patio in the alley behind their business. Imagine That Designs, 15708 Lorain Avenue, pivoted from quilt design and production to making protective masks for the pandemic. Red Lantern reopened for take out and delivery in Kamms Plaza and partnered with Planted Restaurant, who shares their kitchen to of-

fer take-out healthy, plant-based recipes or even better food made from scratch. 5 Points Coffee, 3600 West Park Road, added an enclosed pick up area to provide a safe, comfortable year-round customer experience.

In December, Habesha Restaurant opened at 16860 Lorain Avenue to offer Ethiopian and Eritrean vegetarian and meat-based appetizers and entrees.

So, what's to come in 2021? Nobody can say for sure in these times but here are some things brewing. By the time of this publication, Treehouse Provisions, 3885 Rocky River Drive, has either opened or is close to doing so to offer farm-to-table food options for takeout, delivery, and catering. West Park Animal Hospital, 4113-17 Rocky River Drive, plans a spring groundbreaking for their new building that will better serve the neighborhood for years to come.

There are also plans in the works with to fill several long-term vacant properties. Arby's is completing plans to remodel and occupy the former Steak-N-Shake at 17325 Lorain Avenue. A proposal is underway to redevelop the medical office building at 17730 Lorain Avenue and add a second floor with apartments, both marketed to Cleveland Clinic Fairview healthcare professionals. The vacant building at 14700 Lorain has been proposed for demolition with a new restaurant building to replace it. Further, we are anticipating an announcement on redevelopment plans for the former Kmart site in the coming year.

Stay tuned to these pages as well as our e-news and social media for updates as plans develop.



AND A LOOK FORWARD

Clearvue Glass Plans Move to West Park

By Ben Campbell

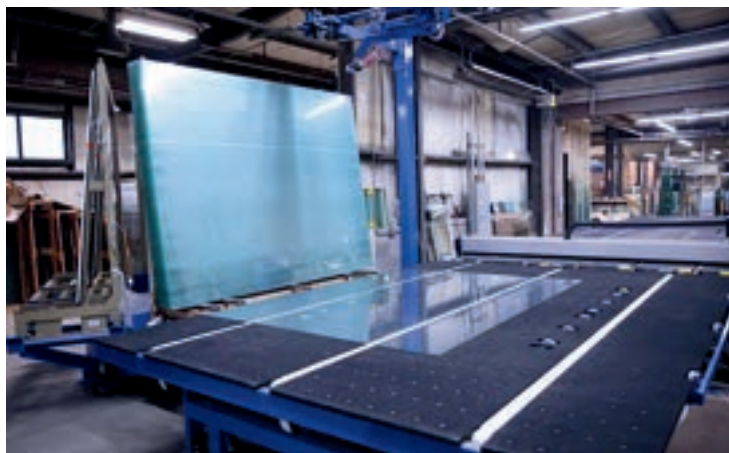


photo from clearvueig.com

Clearvue Insulating Glass Company has purchased the vacant former Cleveland Die property at 14735 Lorain Avenue in order to relocate their expanding business from Brooklyn, Ohio to West Park. The company is a fabricator and distributor of glass products and has been in business for more than thirty years. The team is excited

to move to the neighborhood. “After a thorough search for a new home for our business, we were delighted to find the right building in the right location in West Park, a nice neighborhood with a good workforce,” said Lou Lamirand, President of Clearvue.

The company has approximately 15 employees with plans to expand in the future with and lease to other businesses in the building and seven acre site. The total project cost will be over \$2 million with significant repairs needed to update and repurpose the building for their operations.

West Park Kamm’s Neighborhood Development and Councilman Slife have worked closely with Clearvue on the project and will continue to provide assistance as they navigate the redevelopment of the site. Councilman Slife shared, “We are excited to work with Clearvue as they work on their plans to reinvest in their new building, return it to productive use, and create job opportunities in our community.”

The move-in date is anticipated to take place in the fall of this year.

WELCOME ASIA STAR CLOTHING

By Ben Campbell

Asia Star Clothing & Houseware opened last month at 17108 Lorain Avenue.

This new business strives to serve the Asian and African immigrant and refugee communities as well as globally-minded customers in the greater Cleveland area by providing Asian and African traditional clothing and houseware items. Asia Star Clothing & Houseware sells a variety of clothing and fabrics from Asia—including India—and Africa. They will provide other needed houseware items including, curtains, bed sheets, blankets, and kitchenware.



Many members of the refugee and immigrant communities currently travel outside of Cleveland to Columbus, Michigan, Illinois, and even Virginia to obtain similar items because there is not a local supplier of these sought-after products. Asia Star Clothing & Houseware hopes to fill this gap and make shopping for these items more convenient for both international residents as well as all residents

interested in other cultures. Nasrullah Safi and Navidullah Raheen, the owners of Asia Star Clothing & Houseware, are originally from Afghanistan but are currently West Park residents. Both have bachelor’s degrees in business and owned stores in Afghanistan before coming to the United States. In addition, the duo worked with US Together, an organization that provides business training and loans to entrepreneurial refugees and immigrants in Cleveland, to help launch the store.



Rosemary Mudry, Executive Director of West Park Kamm’s Neighborhood Development said, “We are excited to welcome Asia Star to the neighborhood bringing vibrancy to a vacant storefront and providing the community with retail items not before found in the neighborhood. It’s great to see the current generation of immigrants who have made West Park their home carrying on the long tradition of investing directly into the community!”

For store hours and more information, please call 216-273-7410 or like Asia Star on Facebook @asiastarclothing.

Need Assistance?

If you require assistance with the expenses of homeownership or are looking to make home improvements, reach out to West Park Kamm's for assistance. WPKND can help!

Contact Franchesca Bodnar at 216-252-6559 x 1700 or franchesca@westparkkamms.org for help on the below programs.

Homestead Water/ Sewer Discount	The Homestead Water/Sewer Discount Program offers a lower fixed charge and consumption rate for seniors and/or permanent disabled individuals that are income qualifying homeowners.
Senior Service Program (Ward 16 & 17)	For seniors and disabled residents in Ward 16 & 17 that have no one to help them. Some service examples: lawn care, gutter cleaning, railing installations, etc. Senior and disabled residents that need help will have to fill out an application and return it with proof of income.
Water Affordability Program	Offers a 40% discount on all standard water charges. This includes both the monthly fixed charge & consumption charge. <i>To qualify, customers must meet income guidelines and own/live at the applying service address.</i>
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)	The LHC program provides lead risk assessments, identifies lead-based paint and provides grants to control lead-based paint hazards.
Delinquent Tax Payment Plan	Behind on your property taxes? Payment plans are available for homeowners who live in their homes. Landlords may be eligible for installment plans (<i>up to 24 months</i>), at the discretion of the Cuyahoga County Treasurer.
Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP)	Offers low or fixed-income residents energy efficient measures designed to decrease utility bills & improve energy deficiencies. Provides grants and education through the State of Ohio for homeowners & tenants who meet income guidelines.
Cleveland 50/50 Sidewalk Residential Replacement	Repair/replacement of unsafe sidewalks through a partnership between the city and its residents where each party pays 50% of the cost. 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. No income limits apply. CRS also offers free technical assistance on questions related to home conditions or repair.

photo from @kammscornerslife



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Contact JD Smith at 216-252-6559 x 1300 or jd@westparkkamms.org for more information on the below programs.

Housing Enhancement Loan Program (HELP)	Provides home improvement loans, at 3% points below normal bank rates, for home repair/remodeling projects for homeowners of occupied or investment properties. <i>HELP has no restrictions on a borrower's income and few limitations on what improvements can be made to a property</i>
Weatherization	Furnace or hot water not working? Cleveland Housing Network, has an emergency/no heat program that runs from October 15 to April 15. <i>Income qualifying.</i>
West Park Sherwin Williams Paint Program	Discounts on paint and painting supplies. All those living in Ward 17 are eligible. <i>Limit one per household.</i>
Senior Home Repair	Small exterior repair grants of up to \$500 for seniors and adults with disabilities. <i>Grants and grant size are income-qualifying.</i>
Contractor List	Looking for help with a project at home? WPKND has a list of local contractors and tips for hiring one.

Cleveland Care Calls	Cleveland Care Calls: if you or someone you know would like to be checked in on regularly, consider signing up for Cleveland Care Calls. This weekly automated telephone reassurance system is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of elderly adults or those with a disability. In the event the senior cannot be reached, the Dept of Public Safety may be asked to make a wellness check. Call 216-664-6316.
Senior Transportation	Senior Transportation Connection: Call 216-664-2833 to register and schedule a trip or receive more information. Must be scheduled at least three working days before travel, \$1.25/one way. Social distancing enforced.
Senior Chore Services	Senior Chore Services: if you're looking for assistance with snow removal this winter, the Cleveland Department of Aging Chore Services can help! Call 216-664-3998 and ask about snow removal services.



Food Assistance

Contact Devon Chodzin
at 216-252-6559 x 1000
or devon@westparkkamms.org
for more information
on food resources.

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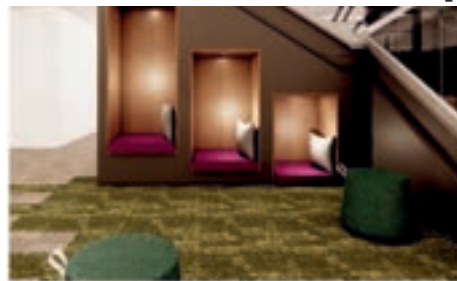
By JD Smith

Exciting developments are coming to treasured neighborhood landmark West Branch of the Cleveland Public Library. With new construction and renovations slated to begin later this spring, the 93-year-old Tudor-style building will enter the 21st Century while retaining its historic charm. The new plans, which were put together after soliciting community and user feedback over the last 18 months, will undo much of the renovations from the 1970's.

Public commenting sessions made it clear that the neighborhood reveres the building as a historical landmark and wants to see the architectural features of the building celebrated. Vocon, the architecture firm leading the renovation, relied heavily on community feedback in their library design. The plans include the removal of the dropped ceilings to better showcase the vaulted ceiling and the tall elegant

windows in the main reading room, a facelift to the rear addition of the building, and a new slate roof.

Renovations will not only restore the building but will serve the modern and flexible needs of the community.



INTERIOR VIEW TOWARD CUBBIES UNDER OPEN STAIR



INTERIOR VIEW TOWARD CIRCULATION KIOSK

A new streetscape and pedestrian entrance on West 157th Street will make it easier for pedestrians and transit users to access the library, while the revamped addition in the rear of the building will feature a new book drop and improved ADA accessibility. Modern spaces for children and teens will better serve West Park families, while other areas, like a café-style space, will make the library a destination. A grand staircase and elevator will better connect the lower floor to the rest of the building. Book pick-up lockers and a flexible community meeting room will be available off-hours to better accommodate the neighborhood's needs.



Restoration at the West Park Library

Construction is scheduled to break ground this Spring and be completed in a year's time. When the library re-opens in Spring 2022, it will not only feel more modern, spacious, yet still historic, while its updates will better serve and reflect of the neighborhood.

To stay up to date on the project, sign up for updates on the project website: courbanize.com/projects/cpl-west_park_branch/updates.

WPKND will also share updates and information on where residents can access library services during construction.

Want to share with CPL how they can highlight the community's history and honor its roots and culture in the library renovations? Text them at 216 284-4698, leave a voicemail at 833- 223-4295, or visit courbanize.com/collections/cpl.

Thank you to CPL for the renderings and drawings.



INTERIOR VIEW OF COMMUNITY ROOM



INTERIOR VIEW TOWARD CHILDREN'S AREA



CPL is offering a new, free service to deliver books, movies, and reading materials to the homes of adult Cleveland residents, Word on Wheels.

- Sign up for a library card if you don't have one.
- Call a neighborhood branch or the Main Library to request materials.
- Materials will be shipped to your house.
- When done, return items to any Cleveland Public Library location book drop or any CLEVNET member library.

Cleveland Public Library will still provide our Homebound Service for those who are unable to return items on their own because of disability or age.

West Park Branch: 3805 W 157th St. | 216-623-7102

Eastman Branch: 11602 Lorain Ave. | 216-623-6955

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INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VENDOR?

WPKND is looking for

- produce vendors
- artisans/makers
- meat/dairy vendors
- bakers/confectionery
- musicians



Fill out our vendor inquiry form at westparkkamms.org/market or contact JD Smith at 216-252-6559 x1300.



Follow us @kammsmarket on Facebook and Twitter!



Enjoy KCFM's Chef Demos and Sustainability Programs on YouTube @West Park Kamms.



Stay connect with market updates by signing up for Kamm's Corners Farmers Market enews at westparkkamms.org/market.

GardenWalk 2021

By David Horneck

Take a peek at some of coolest yards in Cleveland! Tour the backyard gardens during the 2021 GardenWalk Cleveland. This year nine neighborhoods will be participate over two days -Saturday, July 10 and Sunday, July 11, 2021. West Park GardenWalk is scheduled for Saturday, July 10 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Have a great garden to share? NEW online registration! Go to gardenwalkcleveland.org and click on 'add a garden' to enter your garden. Registration started March 1 and deadline is June 1, 2021.

Most folks like to visit more than one garden in an area, so ask your neighbors to join in with you! No garden is too small or unimportant. You can even show just your front yard if that's what you are most proud of. Garden to share or not, save the date and plan to have a fun-filled weekend visiting many gardens in Cleveland's neighborhoods!

David Horneck welcomes questions or inquiries at dhorneck1@gmail.com.



SUMMER COMMUNITY UPDATE

JOIN US

VIRTUAL SUMMER COMMUNITY MEETING

Join WPKND virtually on **May 12 at 6:30 pm** for community updates, including details on summer programming, ongoing neighborhood projects, and the latest business news.

REGISTER to attend the community meeting at westparkkamms.org/summerupdate. For help accessing the meeting or for questions, please reach out to Devon Chodzin at 216-252-6559 x 1000 or devon@westparkkamms.org. Be on the lookout for reminders and links on our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages @WestParkKamms



Stay tuned for details...



WALK ON WEDNESDAYS

Explore all corners of West Park on foot with guided and self-guided walks highlighting neighborhood landmarks, greenspaces, and hidden gems. Stay tuned for details on a variety of walking routes designed for various ages and fitness levels!

LAWN CHAIR CINEMA

Enjoy a series of family-friendly films this summer and arts programming highlighting the many cultures represented in West Park. Taking place once a month, details on the location and dates will be available soon!

THE HOOLEY ON KAMM'S CORNERS™

While the traditional event cannot take place this June due to the pandemic, West Park Kamm's is hopeful that it may be safe to celebrate this neighborhood tradition later in the year. We hope to have a final decision by early fall.

WPKND SAFETY PROTOCOL

West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development is looking forward to providing safe ways for neighbors to connect and for residents to have fun this summer. Plans for the above events will strictly adhere to local, state, and national health regulations, and we will work closely with our local partner, Fairview Hospital, to ensure programs are designed with health and safety first!

Be on the look out for updates on WPKND's social media @WestParkKamms and in the summer issue of the West Park Magazine. The summer issue will be in mailboxes at the beginning of June!

Thank you to our WPKND 2021 summer programming supporters



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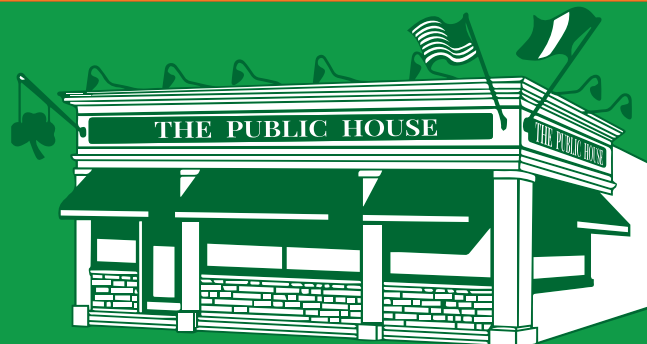
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We are so appreciative for your continued support!

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WEST PARK NEIGHBOR NIGHT



By Melanie Sklarz

West Park Neighbor Night is a community gathering where the agenda for the meeting is created by the participants. It is also a space where you can meet new neighbors, share ideas, and learn about upcoming local events.

It is now a full year since we moved to meeting virtually due to the pandemic. We miss seeing everyone in person and are hopeful that someday soon we will resume in-person when it is safe. Until then, we hope you will join us on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Here are the upcoming dates: March 10, April 14, and May 12. Look for meeting announcements and the Zoom link on Facebook @WestParkNeighborNight or in your inbox.

Please contact Danielle Doza at Danielle.Doza@gmail.com or 216-536-6122 if you have questions, want more information, or would like to be added to our email list.

MICROLOAN PROGRAM AVAILABLE

By: Blessed Trinity Church

If you have an idea for a small business but need help with funding and support to make it successful, a new church-sponsored, low interest “microloan” program may be just what you are looking for.

The Microloan Program, based at Blessed Trinity Church on 140th Street and Puritas Road, is working to help grassroots entrepreneurs in the West Park area. A team of parishioners and community members started work last year to create a pilot microloan program, and they are already partnering with several local entrepreneurs. They are excited to now expand the loan program to other participants looking to start or grow their business.

For more information, email Fr. Doug Koesel at dkoesel@blessedtrinitycleveland.org, or call the Blessed Trinity parish office at 216-671-5890. Details at blessedtrinitycleveland.org/#microloan.

GET YOUR HOUSE READY FOR SUMMER

Now that the days are getting longer, it is a good time to start getting your property ready for the warm months ahead! WPKND partnered with the Home Repair Resource Center to create this list of home projects to jumpstart you for the coming season. Always be extra careful to have the correct protective gear when using a power washer or other power tools.

by Franchesca Bodnar and Dave Brock from Home Repair Resource Center

Gutter Upkeep

- Safety! Safety! Safety!
 - Tighten brackets to fix sags.
 - Loose gutters?
- Consider fascia hanger brackets
- Ideal slope: ¼ to ½ inch per 10 feet
- TIP!** Water test-pour water from area furthest from downspouts to test for proper flow.

Garden

- Clean up debris and weeds so new growth can easily pop up.
 - Make sure garden tools are cleaned. This promotes longevity of tools and prevents any bacteria from entering the soil which may harm plants.
 - Turn over soil and add compost at least one week prior to planting.
- TIP!** Dead leaves from last fall make great pseudo compost!
- Start seeds indoors for plants with longer growing seasons.

Preparing Your Air Conditioner

INSIDE

- Check ductwork for places air can escape.
- Replace inside A/C filter.
- Flush A/C drain line near furnace.
- Consider a programmable, energy efficient thermostat.

OUTSIDE

- Remove debris (leaves, twigs, etc.) in and around unit/coils and check for any blockages.
- Inspect the refrigerant lines- are they properly insulated?
- Check wiring.
- Look over outdoor condenser unit.

TIP! Run A/C for at least 10 minutes and check unit for any irregularities and to ensure hot air is blowing at the outside unit.



Refinishing Your Deck

PREP

- Inspect for any damage or broken boards.
- Scrape then strip paint or varnish.
- Clean with electric power washer or even garden hose with a strong nozzle and cleaning solution.
- Sand after washing; re-washing will raise wood grain you just sanded and sweep up.

STAIN TIPS!

- Oil-based tends to last longer; latex is easier to clean.
- Semi-transparent allows you to still see wood; opaque acts more like paint.
- Make sure deck has been dry for multiple days.
- Use brush or pad for railings and balusters, roller or pad for main deck boards.
- Don't pinch pennies on supplies or products.

OLD LORAIN ROAD STUDY

Old Lorain Road Study shares draft plan for proposed pedestrian and cycling path to the Rocky River Reservation

By Rosemary Mudry

The Old Lorain Road Study identifies a safe and scenic trail connection between the Kamm's Corners neighborhood and the Rocky River Reservation. Access between the neighborhood and the Rocky River Reservation for walkers, runners, bicyclists, individuals with mobility challenges, and families with strollers has long been a challenge due to the steep slopes and narrow pavement of Old Lorain Road. A feasibility study funded by the City of Cleveland through Councilman Slife and managed by Cleveland Metroparks in partnership with West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development has completed the initial engineering study to identify an off-road trail connection. The next phase of the project is to share the potential route with the public to solicit feedback and answer questions. Only with community input can the project team take the next steps in developing an implementation plan including fundraising.

- Protection of wetlands, trees and sensitive natural areas influences the proposed path.

- Developing a route with the lowest incline to make the path enjoyable and usable for as many residents of the neighborhood as possible including small children, seniors, residents using mobility devices like scooters/ wheelchairs, and cyclists.

Taking those many factors into account, engineering firm Michael Baker International, developed the proposed route that begins at the bottom of Old Lorain Road across from the golf course parking lot and the all-purpose trail connector. The proposed trail runs alongside Old Lorain Road for a short distance where there is space before curving southwest into the woods. The route snakes up the hill around the back of the Fairview Hospital Parking Garage and ends on Riveredge at Bradegate road connecting

Virtual Community Meeting | March 23 | 6:30-7:30 pm

In the diagram of the study area, the analysis highlights engineering challenges identified through site visits with project partners and topographical analysis that played an important role in determining a feasible route. The challenges summarized below led to the proposed route that can be seen in the next drawing.

The challenges summarized below led to the proposed route that can be seen in the next drawing:



- The slope of Old Lorain Road does not meet safe standards for biking and would be difficult for families or others with mobility challenges to use.
- Severely steep slopes on each side of Old Lorain make road expansion to add a ten-foot path structurally dangerous and financially unfeasible.
- Potential structural impacts to existing buildings on both sides of Old Lorain factored into the route.

through to the street on Cleveland Clinic property. Studies, including some conducted by neighboring suburban communities, show overwhelmingly positive outcomes for residents living near walkable and bikeable trail connections in terms of mental health, physical well-being, and economic values. In addition, park usage increases by residents when there are all-purpose connections like the one proposed by this plan within a half mile of their home.

The proposed connector trail to the Rocky River Reservation will create a new park connection for the 1,400 residents living within a half mile of the park. In the Valley, the link will connect to the existing Emerald Necklace trail. This off-road trail stretches 33 miles through Cleveland Metroparks from Detroit Avenue in Lakewood to the Towpath Trail in Cuyahoga Valley National Park and connects to multiple communities and trails along the way.

Join us March 23 at 6:30 pm for a virtual community meeting. To learn more about the project, ask questions, provide feedback, and to register for the virtual community meeting go to westparkkamms.org/oldlorain. For help accessing the meeting or for questions, please reach out to Devon Chodzin at 216-252-6559 x 1000 or devon@westparkkamms.org.

Thank you to the Cleveland Metroparks and Kelly Coffman, Senior Strategic Park Planner.



Improvements to Lorain Avenue

Thank you to Councilman Charles Slife and the Kamm's Area Special Improvement District (KASID) for helping WPKND fund both the improved LED holiday tree lights and new holiday street banners. What is the Kamm's Area Special Improvement District? Kamm's Area Special Improvement District was established in 2015 by a vote of the property owners within the district to maintain and promote "downtown" Kamm's Corners.

The district includes the properties that front Lorain Avenue from Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital to West 165th Street.

Essential functions of the district include litter control, public planter maintenance, sidewalk snow removal, street banner rotation, and district marketing.

The district's budget is funded through additional assessments beyond traditional property taxes on the property owners within the defined area. The members voted to renew the special improvement district through 2024 in order to continue to support district wide initiatives.



St. Paddy's Day

by Devon Chodzin, Mollie Wirtz

Celebrations to honor St. Patrick's Day have been a deep tradition in Cleveland since the first St. Patrick's Day parade in 1842. Due to its rich heritage of Irish residents and business owners, West Park has been a hot spot to celebrate the annual festivities year after year!

Unlike last year's St. Patrick's Day celebration, this year we can easily prepare a safe day honoring Irish traditions and enjoying St. Patrick's Day. Consider ordering takeout from your favorite restaurants or stores in West Park; they will certainly offer some of the best St. Paddy's day menus, desserts, and beverages around town. We encourage you to explore St. Patrick's Day West Park style.

Until we march again, enjoy these St. Patrick's Day memories we collected from the neighborhood!



Maureen Mountcastle is a St. Patrick West Park School alumna along with her two brothers and sister and current West Park resident. She is a parishoner St. Patrick West Park and serves as the historian.

"I am a 5th generation parishioner (my great grandfather had a team of mules and he hauled the sand stone from Berea Quarries for our present Church). I also recently retired after 44 years on property - the last 28 as Secretary, although I am back working part time. St. Patrick West Park is the oldest Catholic Church in Cleveland (St. Mary's of the Flats was older but no longer exists). The parish was established in 1848.

St. Pat's has started March 17 with a beautiful Mass. For many years, the parish invited the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, all the priests who had served at St. Patrick's over the years as well as those who had grown up in St. Pat's and were ordained priests (Sons of the Parish). It was beautiful as all these priests processed down the church's 130ft aisle. This Mass was always standing room only! After mass the priests also had a corned beef and cabbage lunch in our Parish hall."

At St. Patrick School, "In 1966 we established our school drill team. They were to represent us in the parade and started their day with the Mass and they too processed

into the church. 50+ 8th grade girls marching down the aisle that first year. Our drill team grew to include 6-8th grade girls (and boys who became our drummers). Close to 100 marchers coming down that aisle in cadence had our church shaking. In fact, we had to have a structural engineer out to make sure our church could handle it!

A fun note about our 1st drill team - when choosing on uniforms, it was decided wool turtleneck sweaters and bunny fur earmuffs to ensure our girls would be warm. My sister was on the team and it was 69 degrees on St. Patrick's Day that year! The girls were dying marching in that heat."

"In recent years things changed, our school closed so our drill team no longer existed. We still have a beautiful Mass attended by present parishioners as well as those who have moved away but love to come back for this special celebration. Mass is followed by a continental breakfast of coffee, juice, scones, donuts, fruit, etc. for all in our lower church before heading down to the parade.

Our parish now has a float, parishioners march and older parishioners hop on Lolly the Trolley provided by the Parish for a ride down the Avenue. Unfortunately, that will all be on hold again this year due to Covid!"



Marilyn Madigan is Vice President of Ladies' Ancient Order of Hibernians National Board, lifelong West Parker, and alumna of St. Patrick West Park School and St. Joseph Academy.

"St. Patrick's Day is a day of faith, family, and community. All three of those are strong here in West Park. The parade is something the Irish give to the greater community and use as an opportunity to honor Irish folks who've given back to the community. My fondest memories are of being honored as Inside Co-Chair of our St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1994, and when Danny Chambers invited me to present the readings at St. Colman's Mass for St. Patrick's Day. That parish has a special place in my family history, as my father, a 1st generation Irish-American, grew up in that parish before marrying my mother and moving to start our family near St. Patrick West Park parish."



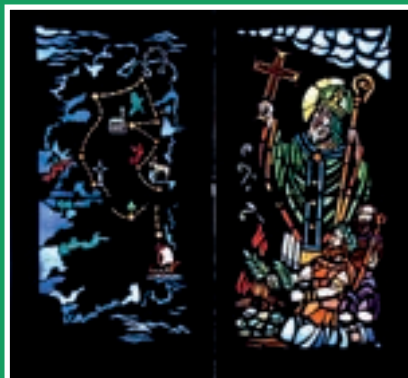
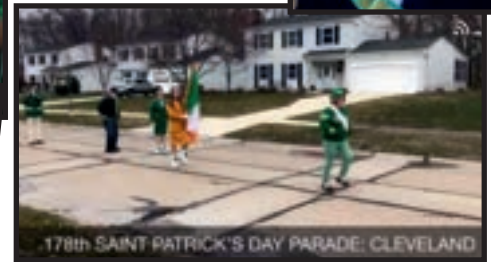
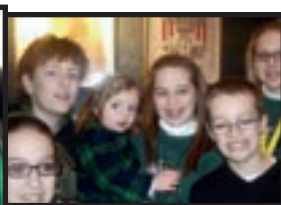
Irish Brown Bread

- 11 oz of wholewheat flour (or 1 and 3/8 cups)
- quarter cup of all purpose flour
- 2 cups of buttermilk
- one egg (lightly beaten)
- one tablespoon of wheat germ
- one cup of McCanns steel cut oats
- two tablespoons of brown sugar
- one teaspoon of salt
- one teaspoon of baking powder
- one teaspoon of baking soda

From the kitchen of Conor Boylon's Mam

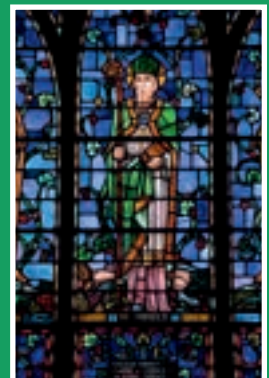


Mix all dry ingredients in a bowl. Then add buttermilk and egg and mix together until it forms a nice soggy dough. Pour into a 8x5 loaf pan that is lined with parchment paper. Grease it up a wee bit with some butter or oil. Put in the oven for about 75-90 minutes @ 325 degrees or until it looks ready. Put a knife through it and make sure it's not soggy. You have to keep checking it and decide when it's done enough for your liking!



St. Patrick's journey to sainthood can be found illustrated on the back doors of St. Patrick Church West Park. According to folklore, when St. Patrick sailed northwards after being expelled he landed on now known as St. Patrick's Island, later named in his honor. Symbols on the map (left photo) are representative of his life, a ship, a goat-since he owned a goat as a companion and source of milk, the snake, church, chains, red flames to represent the Holy Spirit, and a clover.

St. Patrick is recognizable by his green head piece that includes a cross, white beard, and adorned in a green robe and carries a crook! Stained glass inside St. Patrick Church West Park.
Read the story behind the St. Patrick window at westparkkamms.org.





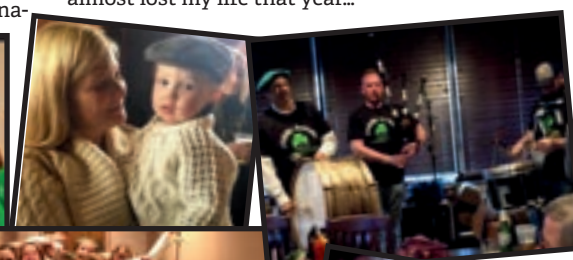
Sheila and Jim Sheehan are West Park alum, members of OLA Parish, the previous owners of Sheehan's Pub, Price's Pub and Paddy Rock. Jim hosts The Kitchen Party Podcast with Mark Owens | @kitchenpartypodcast.

"My greatest memories of St. Patrick's Day (SPD) in the 'before times' — West Park is a tight knit community and full of those with Irish ancestry. The morning of SPD, on my way into work, I would witness a sea of emerald clad West Parkers starting their celebration of their Irish heritage. West Park would be a gathering spot for friends and families for Irish breakfast

and a few pints before Mass and the parade downtown. My favorite part of the day was always in the later afternoon - as the crowds would swell - there would be a stream of cars of revelers proceeding down Lorain Avenue. Many police and firemen lived in West Park and the Pipes and Drums of the Cleveland Police had many stops on that day. Their final stop would be West Park where they would line in formation and march down Lorain Avenue - our own little community parade down 'The Green Mile.'

We'd always host "St. Practice Day." We had a reputation for bringing in national and interna-

tional Irish musicians and we housed many of them on the night before. We've had Ray Kelly, The Mickey Finns, The WolfeTones, Seanchai and the Unity Squad, Makem Brothers, Paddy Reilly, Danny Doyle, Pat Dailey and so many others. The Public House has a legendary Survivor's Day party the day after SPD. One year, a dear friend, Jack Colbert, not known to us at the time, spread a rumor that The Saw Doctors were coming in for a surprise visit on the day after and people drove us mad about it, as we kept denying it! Because it wasn't happening. I almost lost my life that year..."



Thank you to those who submitted photos! See more photos at westparkkamms.org

Colleen Hannon Galla is an alum of St. Patrick West Park School. Growing up in West Park in the 1980s, it seemed like everyone was Irish. It was the norm to attend parade practice after school every Friday at St. Patrick West Park - many classmates Irish danced, and most of my classmates had Irish names. I didn't realize how special Cleveland's Irish Community is until I was an adult. Cleveland is home to several Irish dance schools that provide a love for the dance, traditions, and Irish culture. Being a part of Irish dance as a child introduced me to the music and the greater Cleveland Irish Community. There is a reason that everyone wants to be Irish on St. Patrick's Day.

The music, dance, traditions, and PEOPLE are the best. The combination of a traditional hornpipe to a lively tune will get everyone's feet tapping. And the bond between Irish musicians is like none other. There is just something magical about Irish music and dance. And my children will agree. They enjoy playing tunes at live sessions and performing in both dance and music competitively and for fun. They too have grown to see the importance of carrying out the Irish traditions and keeping Cleveland's Irish community strong in tradition and culture not only in March but all year long.



In-Home Respiratory Therapy and Pharmacy Support Make a Difference for Patients with COPD

Submitted by Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital

The COPD community is living healthier and fuller lives thanks to a new program at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital. Cleveland Clinic pulmonologists, respiratory therapists and pharmacists are working together to care for patients discharged from the hospital after a COPD flare-up.



Anu Suri, MD

"We educate patients on the disease process, help optimize their medication regimen and empower them to best care for themselves at home," says Anu Suri, MD, a pulmonologist at Fairview Hospital. A respiratory therapist visits patients a few days after their hospital discharge to assess their home environment. The therapist notes cats, dogs, mold, smoke or

anything else that could make COPD symptoms worse. Over the next three months, the therapist continues to check on patients and teach them skills for managing COPD. If there are concerns, the therapist notifies the pulmonologist or primary care physician.

Cleveland Clinic pharmacists review patients' medications and teach them about side effects. Pharmacists look for any concerning drug interactions and emphasize correct inhaler use. They also help patients find the lowest cost medications.

"Teaching patients about their medications is much more effective once they are home, instead of in the hospital," says Anthony Kitchen, RPh, a pharmacy manager at Fairview Hospital.

In a study of 54 patients in the program, more than half did not have their prescribed medications – most commonly a rescue inhaler. For example, one patient was improperly using her maintenance inhaler as her

rescue inhaler. Kitchen and the team helped the patient get a prescription for a proper rescue inhaler and taught her how to use it. While in the program, the patient identified a need for a shingles vaccination, and was able to get it at the pharmacy at Fairview Hospital.

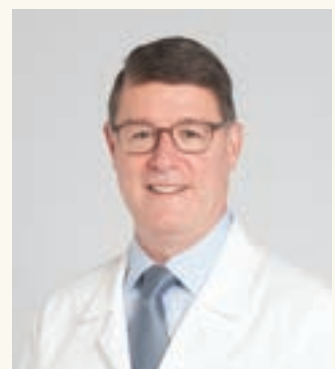
"Patients with COPD are supported by this team of pharmacists, respiratory therapists and pulmonologists, who coordinate their care and follow up on them. For all our patients, Cleveland Clinic pharmacists work closely with their doctors to ensure patients have the medications they need and understand all instructions. We want to be our patient's pharmacy for life. We're here to consult with patients and their family at every step," says Anthony Kitchen, RPh.

The pharmacy at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital is open Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. To contact the pharmacy, call 216.476.7119 or visit ClevelandClinic.org/Pharmacy.

New Thoracic Surgeon at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital

Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital welcomes thoracic surgeon Leonard Wudel, MD, who specializes in robotic thoracic surgery and in surgery for esophageal and lung cancer, esophageal benign diseases, adult pectus, severe hyperhidrosis, diaphragm repair and chest wall reconstruction.

To make an appointment with Dr. Wudel at Fairview Hospital, call 440.333.8600.



Leonard Wudel, MD

Expanded Urology Services at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital

Cleveland Clinic is continuously investing in our community's health and patient care.

The Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute recently expanded urology services in a dedicated suite at Fairview Medical Office Building. Specialties include urologic oncology, kidney stones and female urology.

To ensure it's convenient for you, we offer both virtual and in person visits close to home across all of Northeast Ohio. Extended hours are also available. To schedule an appointment with a Cleveland Clinic urologist, call 216.444.5600.



West Park's Own Instagram Influencer: Meet Molly Wells

By Devon Chodzin

Many of us in West Park love posting and scrolling through Instagram. We log on to see photos of our friends and family, we follow our neighborhood businesses to see what specials they're running, and we follow our favorite celebrities to see what projects they're working on. Others follow influencers -- typically ordinary folks like you and me who use Instagram to share their favorite fashions, recipes, exercises, and more -- inspiring us to try living like they do. Influencers all over the world share their favorite tips for living an interesting life, accompanied by beautifully styled photographs that bolster their recommendations. West Park's own Molly Wells is an influencer from one of Instagram's most verbose corners of the platform -- "Bookstagram."

Corporate attorney by day and avid reader by night, Molly grew up in Wooster and came to West Park three years ago with her husband to lovingly restore a wartime bungalow. Molly has always enjoyed sharing literature with other book enthusiasts, some of whom showed her Bookstagram, a corner of the image-sharing site where bloggers shared colorfully curated stacks of literature and share reviews.

The site is home to thousands of Bookstagrammers worldwide, including actress Reese Witherspoon, whose monthly book club clocks in at nearly 2,000,000 followers.

During some time off before starting her current job, Molly decided to try her hand at Bookstagramming, starting her account The Land Lady Reads in the summer of 2019. In just a year and a half, Molly has already accumulated nearly 7,000 followers while sharing hundreds of the most exciting titles in literary fiction, thrillers, memoir, and journalistic writing on the market.

As part of her Bookstagramming, Molly has reached out to many of the world's leading publishing houses to volunteer as an advance reviewer. In response, publishers have shipped dozens of their upcoming releases to her well before they go on sale. Molly now reads these Advanced Review Copies (ARCs) and shares her reviews on her Bookstagram to generate buzz.

Quickly, ARCs started filling every corner of Molly and her husband's 1940s bungalow. So, for Christmas 2019, Molly's mother bought her a Little Free Library kit, complete with all the parts and an official charter as part of the Little Free Library network. That spring, she and her family embellished the little library, set it in a planter, and placed it on her front lawn. Since she isn't allowed to sell her ARCs even when the book is released, Molly loves how her Little Free Library offers her a way to clear the clutter of old ARCs while also sharing the wealth of reading with her neighborhood, and she regularly sees neighbors perusing.

Little Free Libraries are one of the simplest ways to engage with your neighbors. Anyone can order a Little Free Library kit with all the parts from the organization's website, littlefreelibrary.org, or you can build a custom library and request a charter.

When not reading and working, Molly and her husband can be found planning their next home renovation, preparing for the birth of their first child, or picking up dinner from neighborhood favorite West Park Station.

Thank you to Molly for taking the time for an interview! You can follow Molly's reading journey for 2021 and beyond on Instagram @thelandladyreads.



Councilman Slife Planning for Parks Improvements

By Charles Slife, Ward 17 Councilman



If you are like me, you are eager for the weather to warm up and the chance to spend more time outside. When the weather is nice, there is a good chance you will see my wife and me walking our son to the park – for us, that's Tuland or Impett. Ward 17 residents are

able to enjoy six other city parks (Davinwood, Drakefield, Gunning, Maplewood, Munn, and Rainbow) along with the beautiful Rocky River Reservation operated by the Cleveland Metroparks. In collaboration with West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development (WPKND), my office is committed to improving park access and amenities across the neighborhood. This is more important work than ever, as park use skyrocketed in 2020 during the peak of the Coronavirus pandemic.

City Council funded an engineering study to determine how pedestrian and bike access could be improved to the Valley for residents of Ward 17. See pages 14-15 in this issue of the magazine, you can find details on an upcoming community engagement process tied to this exciting opportunity. Increasing non-vehicular access to the Rocky River



Reservation will improve our quality of life, help attract new residents, and give more West Parkers the seamless access to the Metroparks that many suburbs already offer.

My office is also partnering with WPKND and the City's Office of Capital Projects on a robust planning process for city parks. The City of Cleveland develops multi-year capital improvement plans and prioritizes investments through a combination of age of infrastructure and state of disrepair. It's important to me that the city spends your tax dollars on meaningful projects that are grounded in community input. Parks planning helps ensure this is occurring at our public greenspaces. Stay tuned for more details on how you can get involved in the next issue of the magazine as well as the Council 17 Newsletter.

See you at the park!

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4525 W 192, Cleveland	4365 W 147, Cleveland
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LAURA'S HOME ON NEW CHALLENGES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES



By Devon Chodzin

Traveling down Puritas Avenue, a striking yet inviting brick building on the north end of the street offers an emphatic welcome. The building houses Laura's Home Women's Crisis Center, a specialized crisis center for individual women and single mothers with children designed to provide individualized wraparound services. For two decades now, The City Mission has proven one of West Park's most vibrant neighbors in Laura's Home, offering women and single-mother households holistic crisis management services and empowering people towards independence and new horizons. And they love West Park - being able to provide clients with living arrangements in a remarkably safe, stable, and welcoming neighborhood has added greatly to the whole experience.

As with many organizations who primarily serve their clients face-to-face, The City Mission struggled with how to best serve their communities when the COVID-19 pandemic emerged in Cleveland. The first priority for CEO Rev. Rich Trickel and his team was simply to figure out how to maintain service delivery while prioritizing the health and safety of clients and staff. Throughout the pandemic, preventing the contraction and spread of COVID-19 has played a major role in daily life at Laura's Home, especially as schools throughout the region transitioned to online instruction.

That transition to virtual instruction proved challenging at first, especially for an organization who has heavily prioritized the educational well-being of children at Laura's Home. Fortunately, the Laura's Home team has

strong relationships with Cleveland Municipal School District CEO Eric Gordon and Clara E. Westropp School principal Krystle George. After close coordination, the Laura's Home team got to work building an in-house virtual learning center. They configured their youth space into a schoolhouse, with dividers delineating where kids of different age groups could work with their peers. They purchased 40 laptop computers to ensure the kids had a way to attend classes. They hired three additional staff members to ensure that the kids could seek out adult help whenever needed. With all youth in Laura's Home enrolled in their Pathways program, which provides in-house childcare, tutoring, and activities, the framework for the virtual schoolhouse was there, but it took this next leap to secure youth a regular schedule in the confusion of the pandemic.

The end result has been very promising - by offering students the opportunity to get technological and academic help from the comforts of Laura's Home, the kids, who represent all ages, are up-to-date and engaged. The learning pod team does everything possible to make the school day feel like it did pre-pandemic to inspire engagement. At a time when routines have been turned upside-down, replicating the routine of the school day from the comfort of Laura's Home has made a huge difference in the lives of youth in crisis.

Today, Laura's Home is 80% of the way through a capital campaign that will go towards their first-ever expansion. The City Mission hopes to add up to 10,000 additional square feet of youth

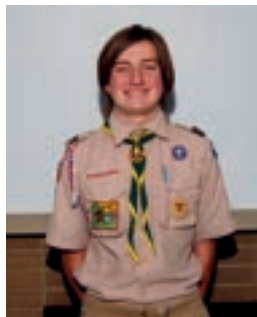


programming space, recognizing the urgent need for engagement opportunities for youth who come to Laura's Home. When Laura's Home first broke ground, no one knew how extensive the youth programming opportunities would become -- now, with the breadth of offerings, Laura's Home is seeking to have the new space ready by next year. As of late January, the initial design plans were being finalized and will soon be submitted to the City of Cleveland for permitting. If all goes according to schedule, Laura's Home may be able to cut the ribbon on its new space as early as summer 2022.

The City Mission CEO Rev. Rich Trickel adds that West Parkers have always been supportive and welcoming of the whole Laura's Home community. Doors are always open for neighbors who would like to help support the programming at Laura's Home. For West Parkers seeking opportunities to help, Laura's Home is still accepting volunteers during COVID-19. As an organization, The City Mission does not rely on any government support, so private donations are always appreciated, including for their capital campaign, Here I Stand. As always, for our neighbors who pray, Rev. Trickel asks that you keep the Laura's Home community in your prayers as residents navigate their own crises amidst this greater public health crisis.

Roots in Scouting

By Jackson Lamson



Guest writer, Jackson, aged 14, who is working to earn the Boy Scout Eagle ranking, must fulfill the requirement of the Communications badge which includes writing an article on a subject to be shared in the community. He wanted to share how scouting has brought joy to many generations of his family and the West Park community.

I am Jackson PJ Lamson, a fourth-generation scout, great-grandson of Mr. D, son of Jeremiah, and grandson of Mr. L. I am currently Scout First Class with an excellent scouting pedigree, looking to reach my goal of obtaining Eagle Scout rank. I will succeed. When I was nine years old, Mr. L asked me if I wanted to come to a meeting to participate in the retirement of soiled and damaged flags at the annual troop ceremony. Since that day, I have looked forward to the day where I could begin my own scouting experience. My journey began February 9, 2018. I joined St. Mark's Troop 293 because I want to follow the man, my great grandfather "Poppy," who inspired the men before me. I am looking forward to the day when I complete Eagle and look at the smile on Poppy's face.

Douglas William DeWerth - The face of scouting in the West Park area. Troop 293 has been in existence in West Park, Cleveland since July 27, 1939. My great grandfather, grandfather, and father are amazing people that represent over seventy-five years of fun and enjoyment in scouts.



This article is about some amazing people and experiences that have impacted my scouting career, past, present, and the future. Douglas William DeWerth, is my great grandfather and is father of my great uncle Doug (Not shown in picture) and my grandmother Shirley. He is also the grandfather of my father Jeremiah. He is who this story is all about. He has been known as "Mr. D" by the scouts in Troop 293 since 1971. Mr. D was a scout as a boy in Troop 153 from 1947-1950. He gained interest and joined scouting because his friends went on campouts and would always tell him how much fun they had. He

saw scouting as a way of showing patriotism and a way of learning how to take care of yourself. He rose to the rank of Star Scout. His favorite merit badge was swimming, and his favorite Scout Camp was Camp Avery Hand in Mansfield, Ohio. Mr. D reentered scouting as an adult when Douglas John DeWerth, his son, joined Cub Scouts pack 293 at St. Patrick Church at Puritas and Rocky River Drives, Cleveland. Douglas John obtained the Eagle Rank in Troop 293 in 1975. Mr. D served as scoutmaster in 1971 through 1989, then becoming a Troop 293 Committee member and Merit Badge Counselor.

Jeremiah Douglas Lamson, my father, is the son of Patrick. Jeremiah joined Troop 293 in 1991 at St. Patrick Church. He became involved in Scouting at age 11. He wanted to follow in his grandfather's footsteps. He wanted to become a man of integrity just like his Grandpa. Troop 293 later moved to St. Mark Church in West Park. Jeremiah's leadership position was that of Quartermaster. He reached his goal and became Eagle Scout in 1999. His Eagle project was a complete restoration of the landscaping at Berea Baptist Church in Berea, Ohio. Mr. D was Jeremiah's role model and encouraged him to strive for greatness during his scouting career. He was able to attend scout camps such as Camp Merz in Maineville, New York, Halliburton in Canada, and the best one being a ten day trip to Philmont Scout Ranch, a high adventure camp in New Mexico. Mr. D



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encouraged the troop to become a "Traveling Troop." Jeremiah is proud of achieving his goal of the rank of Eagle Scout in 1999 as well as graduating from Pennsylvania Culinary Institute in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Cuyahoga Community College Fire/EMS Academy in Parma, Ohio. This began his service to the public that continues to this day.

Patrick Lee Lamson is the father of Jeremiah and grandfather of Jackson Lamson. Mr. L began attending scout meetings in late 1996 as an adult volunteer. He started out as a driver for campouts giving back to the troop in little ways in thanks for the time other adults were investing in his son. He officially joined Troop 293 as Assistant Scoutmaster in 1999. Mr. L explains that it is not all about him being the number one person, but the role is to encourage the scouts to do the best job they can in their advancement and merit badge work while making Scouting look good. Mr. L councils six merit badge classes, including: Citizenships, Communication, Reading, and Scholarship. When he first joined as a leader, the scouts met in the basement of St. Patrick Church and he stated that the "carpets smelled old, not moldy just old." He loves having fun with the guys, teaching new skills, "You gotta do it twice in a row, you might get it right once by accident."

Douglas William DeWerth is but one of the many "Faces of Scouting" serving several troops in our West Park neighborhood. This one man saw a need and inspires others to see the same need. Hundreds of the West Park Cleveland and neighboring communities' youths have been shown the joys of Scouting because of Mr. D. Even though many youth become Scouts and not everyone reaches the rank of Eagle Scout, everyone has a great time. Mr. Douglas William DeWerth is my favorite "Face of Scouting."

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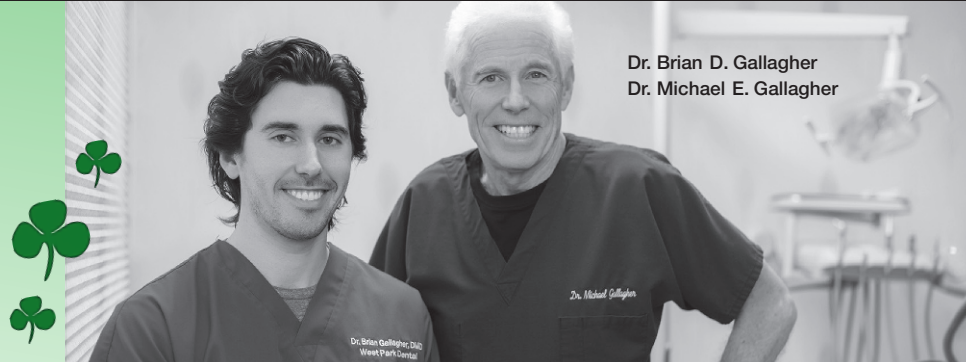


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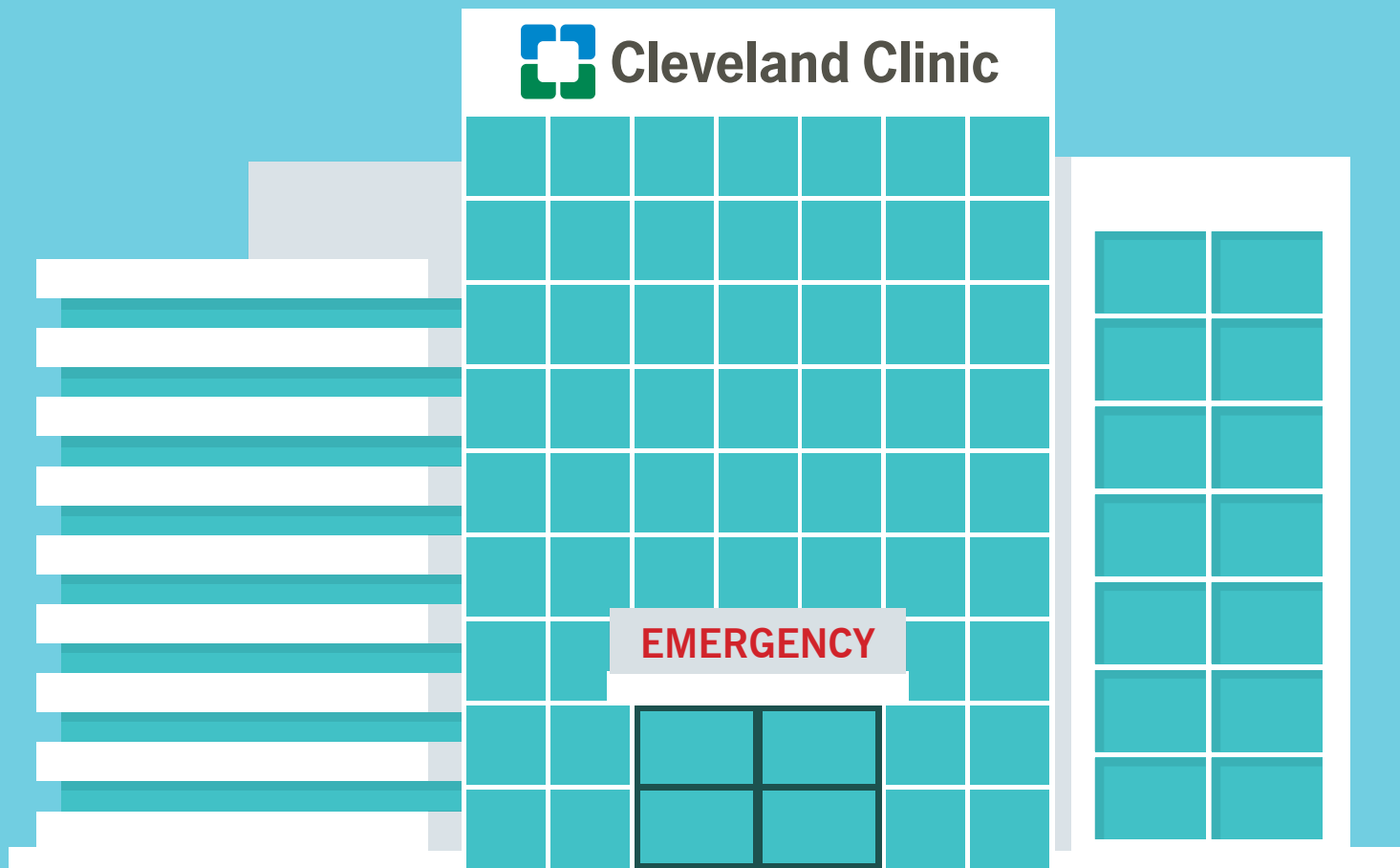
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