

# WEST PARK

## MAGAZINE

WEST PARK KAMM'S NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT | HOLIDAY 2024

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**ON THE COVER:** A local tiny resident and Santa Claus bond at the 2023 Winter Market.



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

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Graphic Design: Stacy Mallardi-Stajcar

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

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## DEAR NEIGHBORS

As winter begins, we're grateful for the strength and spirit of the West Park community. Together, we're stepping into this season with a clear focus on the work that will help our neighborhood thrive.

This year, West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development has laid the groundwork to build a vision that will guide us forward. With the help of new funding and partnerships, we're taking on projects that reflect the character and aspirations of our community. **From our neighborhood's first-ever holiday home tour to a reimagined visual identity for West Park**, we're focused on building a foundation that serves every resident and business here.

West Park's future isn't just about programs; it's about creating a connected, resilient neighborhood. That's why we're working with partners to **conduct a commercial market analysis**, a valuable step that will open doors for new investment and development while preserving what makes our neighborhood unique. With these initiatives, we're ensuring that West Park's growth is thoughtful, impactful, and reflects the dreams of those who live and work here.

One of the best ways to help us achieve these goals is through philanthropy. The most fun way to give is to **join us at Holiday Cheer!** Taking place Thursday, December 7, *Holiday Cheer* is our organization's annual fundraiser. Depending on when you may read this, tickets may still be available. For those with room to spare in your household budgets, we encourage you to **consider making an end-of-year gift to WPKND**. Feel free to reach out to David at david@westparkkamms.org for more information.

Every day, we see the passion and dedication of this community — the pride of our residents, the drive of our business owners and the unwavering support of those who champion our work. Thank you for being a part of this journey. Together, we look forward to continuing to build a West Park that celebrates our shared history, supports our present and shapes a bright future.

David Robinson  
Executive Director

Danielle Doza  
Board President

## WEST PARK KAMM'S STAFF

DAVID ROBINSON  
Executive Director  
david@westparkkamms.org

MOLLY CRAWFORD  
Senior Manager of Engagement Strategy  
molly@westparkkamms.org

JOE DILL  
Deputy Director  
joe@westparkkamms.org

CJ DEMCHAK  
Healthy Homes Coordinator  
cj@westparkkamms.org

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

MOLLIE LEWIS  
Sustainability & Food Access  
Americorps Vista  
mollie@westparkkamms.org

EMILY PIKTURNA  
Sustainability & Special Projects Fellow  
emily@westparkkamms.org

ALLISON WOODS  
Neighborhood Development Manager  
allison@westparkkamms.org



# New CNP Funding Model

By David Robinson

The new model will fuel innovation at West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development.

The recent funding from Cleveland Neighborhood Progress's Advancement and Resilience Initiative (ARI) has given West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development a unique opportunity to innovate. Through this new model for funding CDCs, our organization will be able to launch programs and research initiatives essential for meaningful, long-term growth within our community.

One of the most exciting projects this funding supports is West Park Kamm's Deck the Homes, our first annual holiday home tour. This event has already engaged over 25 households, creating a fresh, festive connection among residents and strengthening community pride. Thanks to ARI's broad approach, we can establish this program with a strong foundation, capturing its impact and showcasing its potential. With proven success, we'll be positioned to seek private sponsorship in 2025 to continue and expand the program.

In addition to community engagement, ARI funding allows us to collaborate with Jefferson-Puritas West Park Community Development Corporation on a commercial market analysis. This

research is a critical step for West Park's growth, yet it's often difficult to secure traditional funding for data-driven projects like these. With ARI's backing, we can attract commercial interest based on robust data, positioning our neighborhood as a promising area for future investment.

the center of this work," he said, emphasizing the importance of supporting CDCs without dictating priorities. For West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development, this philosophy translates into an opportunity to be creative and proactive, launching new ideas without the immediate pressure for high

**Our organization will be able to launch programs and research initiatives essential for meaningful, long-term growth within our community.**

Lastly, ARI funding enables us to partner with Jefferson-Puritas West Park CDC on a new visual identity for the West Park neighborhood. This branding initiative reflects our commitment to creating a unified, recognizable identity for West Park, which will play a vital role in attracting new residents, businesses and community support.

According to Jason Powers, Senior Vice President of CDCs at CNP, the goal of ARI is to empower community development corporations to make strategic, resident-centered decisions. "People who live in these places should be at

returns—a common challenge in traditional grant models.

With this new funding model, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress enables organizations like ours to invest in our neighborhood's future through innovative, resident-centered programs. ARI's flexible support is more than a financial boost; it's a critical step toward sustainable, inclusive growth for West Park and beyond.

For more information on ARI's impact on CDCs across the city and to read their first year report, please visit, [clevelandnp.org/ARIyear1](http://clevelandnp.org/ARIyear1). ■



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WPKND WELCOMES SUSTAINABILITY & SPECIAL PROJECTS FELLOW

By Emily Pikturna



After two years of dedicated service as an AmeriCorps VISTA, Emily Pikturna has transitioned into an exciting new role at WPKND. Since September, she has been serving as the Sustainability & Special Projects Fellow. In her new role, Emily is eager to focus on high-impact, long-term sustainability projects that align with West Park Kamm's mission. Over the coming year, she plans to implement sustainable waste practices for the office and events and will be actively pursuing grant funding to address critical sustainability needs within Ward 17.

Emily will continue to lead efforts in coordinating and growing the West Park Green Team's volunteer initiatives, while also overseeing the maintenance of the 55 trees planted at CMHA Riverside Park in 2023.

Emily is particularly excited to collaborate with Mollie Lewis, the new AmeriCorps VISTA, to further expand WPKND's capacity to deliver impactful and meaningful sustainability programming. ■

MEET MOLLIE LEWIS: NEW AMERICORPS VISTA AT WPKND

By Mollie Lewis



Hello, everyone! My name is Mollie Lewis, and I am so grateful to be joining the WPKND team! I started in late August through the AmeriCorps Vista program, as the Sustainability and Food Access Vista. I am currently a Senior at Cleveland State University, studying both Gender Studies and Environmental Policy. I have a strong interest in how pollution and our physical surroundings affect our most vulnerable community members, and I am eager to serve the West Park community.

I look forward to making personal connections and achieving tangible results together. Please reach out with any suggestions, questions, or just to chat! ■

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# Holy Cross Lutheran Church Celebrates its 80th Anniversary

By Rebekah Ferro

Located on Rocky River Drive between Westdale Avenue and Elsienna Avenue, Holy Cross Lutheran Church has been a part of West Park for 80 years. Founded during the tumultuous years towards the end of World War II, the church first held service on September 10, 1944, in Huntley Hardware Store at 4178 Rocky River Dr, which is now Flight Event Rentals, right next door to Dante's Pizza. That day the first pastor of Holy Cross, Reverend Joseph Stofka, was officially installed. He would serve Holy Cross Lutheran Church for five years. In 1947, their first chapel was dedicated on December 14. The chapel was located at 4117 Rocky River Dr., what is now the location of West Park Animal Hospital. In September of 1951, seven years after the founding of the church, the congregation was able to purchase four acres of land at 4260 Rocky River Drive. The construction of the new church began



Holy Cross Lutheran Church has touched the lives of many West Park families over its 80 years.



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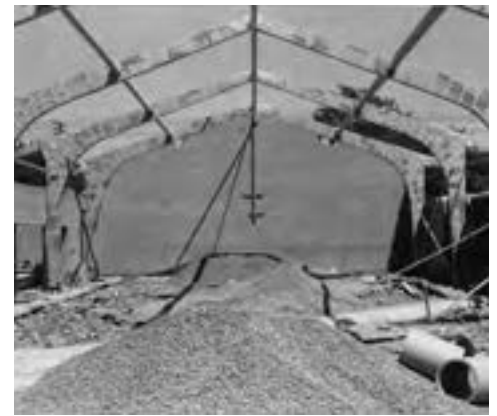
The original church in 1954.

in May of 1957, and would be completed in 1958, where the first service in the new sanctuary would be held on September 21.

Holy Cross would continue to grow and expand with new ministries, music, and more, including the purchase of an additional four and a half acres in 1963, the installation and dedication of their new M.P. Moller pipe organ in March of 1964, and the building of the Education and Fellowship Building,

The congregation would like to invite members of the West Park community to join them for a celebration service on Sunday, December 8 at 9am, with a reception meal to follow.

which was completed in 1966. In 1981, the new building officially became West Park Lutheran School, later renamed to Holy Cross Lutheran School in 2014. In 2015, Holy Cross began the Heavenly Harvest Food Pantry, which



The current sanctuary was built in 1966.

is open the first Saturday of the month from 9am–10:30am.

There have been twelve pastors who have served at Holy Cross. The current pastor, Reverend Robert McCanless, was featured in last quarter's issue of the *West Park Magazine* in our highlight of faith leaders in the neighborhood. He described the congregation of Holy Cross as “wonderfully faithful,” and the congregation has a deep love for the church as well. Many members have fond memories that span decades of Holy Cross' history. They lovingly

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remember having fun at the “No-Talent Talent Shows” that accompanied a delicious ham dinner. Others remember Holy Cross being at the center of many events in the life of their families, including baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Multiple families of the congregation have children who attended or still attend Holy Cross Lutheran School. The Sunday School Christmas and Easter programs are also remembered well.

The many music programs of Holy Cross are a favorite, with one member, Mallory Poppe stating “My favorite memory is being able to join and participate in The Joyful Sounds handbell choir. It has helped me to grow in my music abilities and further contribute to the church.”

Alan and Diane Apelt, who have been part of Holy Cross Church and School for many years, said, “Faith, Family, and Friends: this sums up our thoughts and memories of Holy Cross.” Diane has served as the secretary of both the



church and school for 33 years. For Deb Hohman, who has been a member of Holy Cross for over 5 decades, she says, “The people of Holy Cross make the memories for me, and I am so blessed to be part of the life of Holy Cross.”

Holy Cross has been a staple faith community in West Park for 80 years and has touched the lives of many

families living in West Park, and the surrounding area. We wish the congregation and the school a wonderful and bright 80 years more and beyond! The congregation would like to invite the members of the West Park community to join them for a celebration service on Sunday, December 8 at 9:00am, with a reception meal to follow. ■

An advertisement for preschool scholarships. At the top, there is a circular photo of five diverse young children smiling. To the right of the photo is a yellow banner that says "Invest in Children UPK". Below the photo, the text "APPLY TODAY!" is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline. An orange arrow points from this text down to the word "PRESCHOOL" in large, bold, white letters. Below "PRESCHOOL" is the word "SCHOLARSHIPS" in large, bold, white letters, and below that is "IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY!" in large, bold, yellow letters. Below this, it says "High-quality preschool programs for children 3-5 years of age focused on:" followed by three bullet points: "★ KINDERGARTEN READINESS", "★ NUMBER AND LETTER RECOGNITION", and "★ LITERARY, VERBAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS". At the bottom left is a QR code with the text "LEARN MORE!" and "Scan or Visit HorizonOhio.org". At the bottom right is the logo for "HORIZON EDUCATION CENTERS" which features a stylized sun rising over a building.

An advertisement for Gordon Tower Insurance. The background is a festive, colorful pattern of snowflakes and lights. In the center, there is a large, stylized image of a person's face, possibly a woman, with a warm smile. Overlaid on the image is the text "GORDON TOWER INSURANCE" in large, bold, white letters. Below this, it says "YOUR WESTPARK COMMUNITY AGENCY" in smaller, white letters. Further down, the phone number "PHONE 216-663-7777" is displayed in large, bold, white letters. At the bottom, there is a paragraph of text: "The days are short and the nights are cold, but Gordon Tower Insurance is ready to give you a warm welcome into our family-owned business with a free consultation (and cup of hot cocoa!) Don't get left in the cold; talk to Michael and Mary at GTI today!"

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December 6th	6:00p.m. - 8:00pm
December 13th	6:00p.m. - 8:00pm
December 20th	6:00p.m. - 8:00pm

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



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# City's “A Home for Every Neighbor” Initiative Brings New Approach to West Park Homeless Camp

By David Robinson

Cleveland's “A Home for Every Neighbor” initiative has made notable progress at the West Park homeless camp, where 23 individuals have now transitioned into permanent housing. Unlike traditional approaches to homelessness, which often focus on temporary shelters and short-term fixes, Cleveland's initiative emphasizes sustainable, long-term stability by guaranteeing housing and providing ongoing support services tailored to each resident's unique needs.

Led by Mayor Justin Bibb, the program prioritizes intensive case management, strategic partnerships with landlords, and guarantees of one year's rent, giving unsheltered residents not only a roof over their heads but security as they transition into housing. Landlords receive a one-time signing bonus to en-

The program prioritizes intensive case management, strategic partnerships with landlords, and guarantees of one year's rent, giving unsheltered residents not only a roof over their heads but security as they transition into housing.

courage participation, while tenants benefit from individualized support in navigating this significant life change — an approach that addresses the unique challenges faced by individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

A distinctive feature of this initiative is its proactive, collaborative nature, which involves extensive planning and community engagement. The city has established a “housing command center” to coordinate efforts across agencies and has recruited consultants to tailor the program for Cleveland's needs, taking inspiration from Houston's successful homeless assistance programs. Emily Collins, Senior Advisor for Major Projects at Cleveland City Hall who is overseeing the project shared, “People don't believe us at first ...then they realize that this is real,”



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“

People don't believe us at first ... then they realize that this is real.

— Emily Collins, Senior Advisor for Major Projects at Cleveland City Hall

highlighting Cleveland's commitment to follow-through and transformative change.

This success story at West Park underscores Cleveland's dedication to innovative, sustainable solutions for homelessness. By prioritizing permanent housing over temporary shelter solutions, Cleveland's initiative is transforming lives while protecting community integrity. Through efforts like this, the city demonstrates that its unsheltered residents are not only provided housing but also given a renewed path toward stability and self-sufficiency. ■



Above: The encampment area has been cleaned up. Right: The notice from the City of Cleveland about the now former camp area.



Cleveland Public Library is offering a new, free service to deliver books, movies, and reading materials to the homes of adult Cleveland residents, **WORDS 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. See list below.
- 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 provides the Homebound Service for those who are unable to return items on their own because of disability or age.*

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Rockport Branch:  
4421 West 140 Street  
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# City of Cleveland Launches New 311 System for Resident Complaints

By CJ Demchak

The City of Cleveland's new 311 system is now live! This re-launch aims to streamline communication between the public and city departments by creating a centralized reporting system for assistance with non-emergency issues.

Some of the most common problems that the 311 intake team can help with include Illegal dumping, potholes and street issues, trash and recycling, street tree issues, building and housing, graffiti removal, cemetery maintenance, illegal parking, and/or city park issues.

The time frame per issue will vary, based on complexity and type of problem; however, you'll receive an estimated time for completion after submitting a request. Service requests can be submitted both online and by calling 311 when in city limits. If you need help with submitting a request, you can go into any Cleveland Public Library branch or call the WPKND office. Visit the 311 non-emergency website at [clevelandohio.gov/311](http://clevelandohio.gov/311) ■



Scan here to access the 311 non-emergency website

Use 311 to create and track requests for non-emergency services

For additional information, contact the City of Cleveland Support Specialists at 311 or 216-664-2000.

In the event of an emergency, please call 911.

For WATER emergencies call 216-664-3060

For ELECTRIC (CPP only) emergencies call 216-664-3156

For SEWER emergencies call 216-664-2513

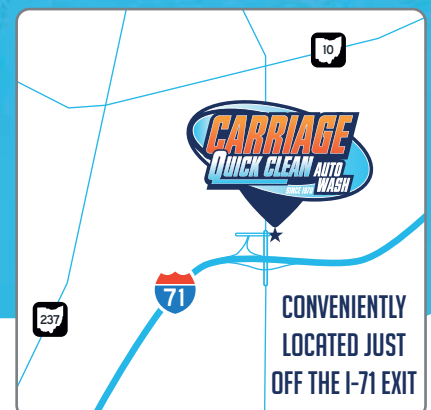
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# New Spring Dates for Home Repair Workshop Series By CJ Demchak

**D**uring the month of August, I was happy to start the Summer Home Repair Workshop Series. This partnership with the Home Repair Resource Center and West Park Kamm's Neighborhood Development expands on the workshops that were previously held at the Farmer's Market. The workshops are presented in a four-part series, and it begins with Power Tools 101, where you learn how to safely use the most common power tools, such as, a power sander, miter saw, impact drill, circular saw, nail gun, and jigsaw.

Next up is Carpentry 101, where participants apply what they learned in the power tools class to a small framing project. The instructors guide participants while they use a nail gun, tape measure, speed square, and saws to build a small 2'x2' wall and corner.

In the next class, Drywall



Basics, instructors help folks install sheetrock, tape, and mud the walls that they had previously created. Participants will also learn best practices and tips for repairing damaged drywall.

Finally, the Plumbing Repair class takes you through the most common plumbing issues, their causes, and how to fix them — This class cov-



Drywall and plumbing repair classes

ers installing and repairing a toilet, snaking drains, faucet repair and installation. All classes are hands-on, free to the public, and safety glasses will be provided.

The next Home Repair Workshop Series will be held every Thursday in March, at 6pm. If you'd like to reserve your slot, then please sign up using the QR code, visit [tinyurl.com/3u22tkdb](https://tinyurl.com/3u22tkdb) or call me directly at 216-273-2899. ■

Sign up today!



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# WEST PARK WINTER



Join us for a festively fun evening that benefits our wonderful community programs such as Senior Home Repair, Kamm's Corners Farmers Market, the Hooley, and more!

**Thursday, December 5, 2024 | 6–9pm**  
**The Grille and Terrace at Big Met**



Get your tickets at  
[westparkkamms.org/cheer](https://westparkkamms.org/cheer)



Open bar and hors d'oeuvres, basket raffles, 50/50 raffle, and more!

## NEW DAY, NEW INDOOR LOCATION!

Saturday, December 14 | 10am–1pm 🌨 St. Mel's Parish | 14436 Triskett Rd.

# Winter Market



Hot cocoa,  
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and crafts  
for the kids!

FREE photos with Santa



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artisan,  
and craft  
vendors



Vendor booth decorating contest  
Winners chosen by customer vote.



Visit [westparkkamms.org/market/schedule/](https://westparkkamms.org/market/schedule/)  
or scan the QR code for more information!



# WONDERLAND

## West Park Kamm's DECK THE HOMES

### NEIGHBORHOOD LIGHTING CONTEST

Tour more than 30 homes on this festive tour! You are invited to walk, bike, or drive through Ward 17 to enjoy beautifully decorated holiday displays. Download a map, explore the neighborhood, and don't forget to vote for your favorite display — top homes will win amazing prizes!

1st PLACE – **\$500** + *Commemorative Signage*

2nd PLACE – **\$250** • 3rd PLACE – **\$100**



TO GET YOUR MAP VISIT  
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## AND DON'T MISS THESE OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS!

### Puritas Nursery Train Display



Multiple themed train displays!  
Open every day from Black Friday  
to New Years Eve.  
Check Facebook for store hours.



### Kamm's Plaza

First three  
Fridays of  
December  
from 6–8 pm

Visits from  
Mr. and Mrs. Claus

Free sleigh rides!

# Neighborhood Business Renames and Relocates: Evolve Egress and Exteriors

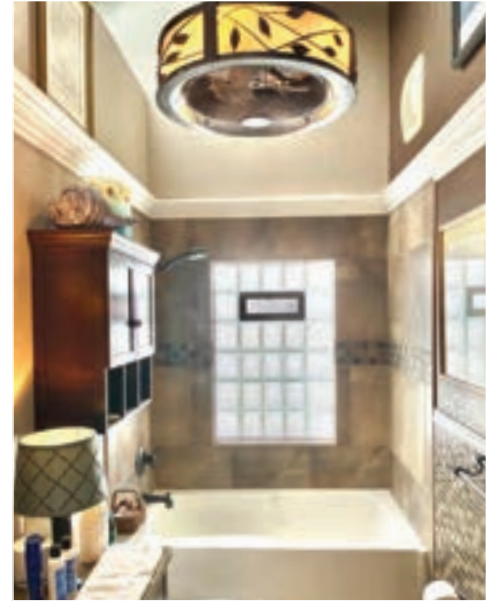
By Joe Dill

A West Park business that has been in the neighborhood for the last twenty years has a new home and a new name. Glass Block Headquarters was founded in 2004 and has served over thirty thousand customers since its inception. This summer, the company relocated from its office on West 140th Street to a new space after purchasing the property at 15501 Munn Road. The move was made in part to find a space more conducive to the team's growing needs but also to cement Glass Block Headquarters roots in West Park.

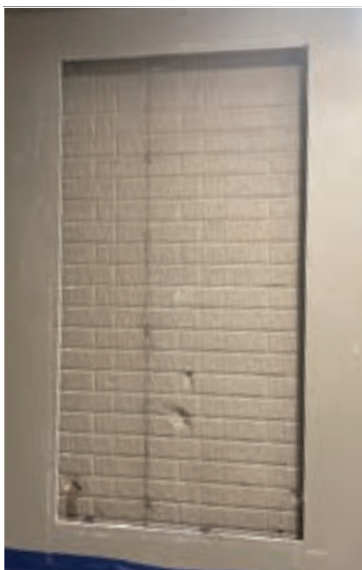
The company is owned by the father and sons trio of brothers Peyton and Parker Zachrich and their dad Rob Zachrich who purchased the company together in 2021. Over the last three years, they have focused on building on Glass Block Headquarters' reputation, focusing their mission, and expanding their operations. This work has led them to rebrand their company as Evolve Egress and Exteriors to better encompass all the services and products they offer.

Evolve Egress and Exteriors will remain a local leader in glass block installation even though they have rebranded. Glass block windows offer a variety of benefits to homeowners. They are airtight, watertight, and make a basement more secure compared to plate glass windows. They also bring a high return on investment for homeowners and Evolve Egress and Exteriors warranties their glass block windows for life. If your basement has an issue with dampness, vented glass block windows make it easy to allow air into the space for better circulation.

As the new ownership team began working in more houses, though, they started to notice how many of their customers utilize their basement level as bedrooms and living spaces. Especially in West Park and greater Cleveland, when homeowners look to renovate their property to add more square footage or additional bedrooms, they often look to the basement. However, if you plan to or are currently using your basement space for regular dwelling, it is vital to add a second point of egress.



On average, there are nearly three hundred and seventy-five thousand house fires in the United States every year. Commonly, basements only provide one exit point via a stairwell to the main level. Basement windows are typically too small and too high to provide a way out in case of emergency. So, what can a homeowner do to make their basement safe for living?



An egress window system for your basement includes a full-size hinged window that can easily be swung open to exit in case of emergency.



The answer to this question was the motivation for the owner's decision to rebrand as Evolve Egress and Exteriors. An egress window system for your basement includes a full-size hinged window that can easily be swung open to exit in case of emergency. To install, the team excavates around the area where you choose to add the egress point, surrounds the area with a window well, and installs the new window and escape ladder. An egress window not only makes the basement safer, but it also allows for more natural light, better ventilation, and means that you can count the square footage of your basement as liv-

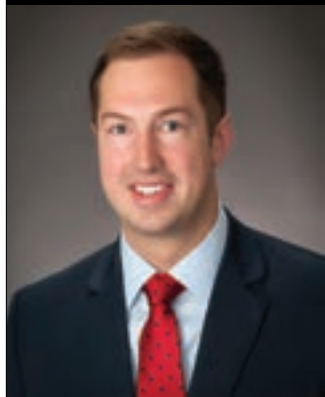
ing space to increase the value of your home. Promoting fire safety is a core value to the team, and the Evolve Egress Exteriors name is intended to emphasize the importance of fire safety to the customers they work with.

Aside from glass block and egress windows, Evolve Egress and Exteriors offers door, vinyl window, and tuckpointing services. Flexible financing options are also available to assist in making home improvement goals a reality.

The team approaches each project as if they were working on their own home. They rely heavily on repeat customers and word-of-mouth referrals so giving

a high-quality product at a fair price is central to their values. They were excited to find their new space in West Park because they enjoy being a part of the strong community in West Park and many of their employees live in the neighborhood. Aside from their location in Cleveland, the team has recently expanded to the Columbus market as well.

Evolve Egress and Exteriors is located at 15501 Munn Road, Cleveland, OH 44111. If you're interested in learning more about their services you can contact them via phone at 216-304-4981, online at [evolveegress.com](http://evolveegress.com) or on social media @evolveegress. ■



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# Platinum Pooch Grooming Opens Second Location in West Park

By Joe Dill

This summer, West Park pets got a new neighborhood option for their grooming needs. Anita and Asher Mehmood, owners of Platinum Pooch Grooming and International Dog Spa, opened their second location in June at 17008 Lorain Avenue. Anita has a long career in dog grooming that has garnered her a wealth of knowledge that she brings to her business. She started Platinum Pooch in 2012 out of her basement and opened her first brick-and-mortar location in Old Brooklyn in 2014. Over the last decade her team and client base have grown to the point that when the opportunity for a second location arose, they expanded to West Park.

Platinum Pooch is a full-service dog spa and groomer. From facials to paw pad treatments, a trip to Platinum Pooch is a true spa day for your furry friends. Prior to booking, the Platinum Pooch team likes to do a phone consultation to learn as much as they can about your pet before they come for a visit. Pricing is based on breed, size, coat condition, and temperament. The standard grooming package includes an ear cleaning, nail clipping, blueberry facial, conditioning treatment, cologne, and bandana or bow. Special spa packages can be added on to grooming sessions like the lavender luxe package which includes a lavender bath, teeth cleaning, paw massage, and paw pad treatment. They can even make accommodations for high anxiety pets. A member of the staff is certified to work with senior dogs, and they also offer massages for athletic dogs or those recovering from injury.

The West Park location has four grooming stations and when not being worked on, pets are kept in spacious cages for the safety of the animals. Grooming sessions typically take anywhere from two to five hours depend-



ing on the breed. There is no extra for hold times for owners dropping off their pet in between work and errands.

Platinum Pooch isn't just for the dogs though. They can also provide grooming services for cats who are comfortable with being cleaned. If after a consultation it doesn't sound like your dog or cat would be a good fit for their team, they can provide recommendations for at home grooming.

They promote their space as a judgment-free zone so that no matter how long it has been since the last time a pet has been groomed, customers feel comfortable that the Platinum Pooch team will provide each pet with a high level of care. When a dog's coat gets matted or overgrown, owners are sometimes hesitant to go to a groomer because they do not want to be viewed as a bad pet parent. However, Anita and her team know that a matted coat is not a reflection of how much a pet is loved.

They seek to work with their clients to find a cut that is fitting for the owner's and pet's lifestyle to keep their coat in the best condition possible. The team members are all pet lovers and emphasize building trusting relationships with the dogs they service and their owners so that the grooming session is enjoyable for everyone.

They also view grooming education as a vital piece of their business. They like to give tips to owners on the best tools, products, and methods to use for their specific pet to keep them looking their best between appointments. Similarly, Anita and her team regularly attend workshops and expos to keep up to date on the latest techniques and best practices in grooming. The pet grooming industry does not have regulations as strict as those placed on barbers and hair stylists, so the Platinum Pooch team takes the initiative themselves to continue their education.

From facials to paw pad treatments, a trip to Platinum Pooch is a true spa day for your furry friends.



With the holiday season coming, it is best to start planning ahead if you need to book a grooming session. Be sure to ask about the peppermint candy spa bath if you book an appointment before the end of the year. Typically, Anita recommends scheduling one to two weeks ahead but wait times can be a bit longer during peak seasons. Walk-in appointments are available for simple services like nail trimmings and paw cleanings. They hope to have online booking available in the future, but for now reaching out to them via phone or social media is the best way to schedule.

Platinum Pooch Grooming and International Dog Spa is located at 17008 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44111. They are open Tues.-Sat. from 9am-4pm. If interested in learning more

about their services or setting up an appointment, the team can be reached by phone at 216-998-7387, online at [platinumpoochcle.com](http://platinumpoochcle.com) or on social media @platinumpoochwestpark. ■



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# West Park Welcomes New Medical Tattoo Studio: Reflection Room Tattoo

By Joe Dill

Tattooing is an ancient form of artistry that has been in practice for thousands of years. Throughout history, tattoos have represented varying meanings for different cultures. They have served as ways to signify social status, protect from evil, declare love, and as tools in religious ceremonies. Recent history has seen a rise in popularity of tattoos for their artistic benefits. However, one genre of tattooing that many people may not yet be familiar with is medical tattooing.

Medical tattooing is a corrective and restorative process intended to address areas of the skin or scalp with an undesirable appearance that someone wants to camouflage. Medical tattoos can be used in many ways including to cover birth marks, scars from accidents or medical procedures, burns, stretch marks, or to balance skin tones.

This summer, a tattoo studio specializing in medical and cosmetic tattoos opened its newest location in West Park. Reflection Room Tattoo was established by Mikayla Hyland and Kyle Manley in 2020 with their first location in Avon. Since then, the team has steadily expanded, opening their second location in Vermillion in 2022 and now their third on Rocky River Drive.

Mikayla was drawn to tattooing as she was studying science in college. While in school, Mikayla began to learn about the science behind tattooing and how it can be utilized in medical settings. This interested her to learn more about the field and ultimately to pursue it as her full-time career.

After starting their own studio and to help advance the field of medical tattooing, the team also founded Reflection Room Academy which hosts classes and workshops lead by internationally accredited instructors to educate and train other tattoo artists.



Creating a safe and affirming space for all individuals to come as part of their medical journey is a core value for the team at Reflection Room.

Mikayla serves as the Director of Education for Reflection Room Academy and offers classes on a variety of topics ranging from brow fundamentals to advanced scar corrections.

Creating a safe and affirming space for all individuals to come as part of their medical journey is a core value for the team at Reflection Room. They regularly work with people recovering from mastectomies, surgeries from cancers, or gender-affirming care. They recognize the significance of their work as part of an individual's medical journey and aim to make the process as easy and empowering as possible.

The name Reflection Room comes

from the owner's desire to assist people in liking the reflection they see when they look in the mirror. Scars and other abnormalities can weigh heavily on one's self-esteem. Tattooing, though, can help aid in masking areas that individuals feel self-conscious about and make their physical appearance reflective of the person they are on the inside.

Reflection Room Tattoo is open by appointment only. The West Park location is located at 4098 Rocky River Drive, Cleveland, OH 44135. For booking and more information, visit their website at [reflectionroomtattoo.com](https://reflectionroomtattoo.com) or @reflectionroomtattoo on social media. ■

# Rewiring America:

By Emily Pikturna

Tax credits are available for sustainable housing upgrades to your home.

**D**id you know there are new tax credits and rebates available for households that switch to sustainable, electrified alternatives? In 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law, allocating \$391 billion for clean energy investments and climate action. This includes \$8.8 billion dedicated to home energy efficiency and electrification projects.

## YOU CAN RECEIVE UP TO A 30% TAX CREDIT FOR THE FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS:

- Electrical upgrades, including panelboards, sub-panelboards, branch circuits, and feeders
- Electric heat pumps and heat pump water heaters
- Weatherization projects, such as insulation, exterior doors, and windows
- Home energy audits, which assess areas of energy inefficiency in your home

Currently, incentives are only available in the form of tax credits, though a rebate system is in development. Ohio received \$249 million to provide direct rebates to eligible residents. While Ohio's rebate program is expected to launch in 2025, you can stay updated on its rollout by visiting [energy.gov/save/rebates](https://energy.gov/save/rebates). These rebates and credits provide savings directly to those making electrification or weatherization upgrades, including those purchasing electric vehicles. Rewiring America ([rewiringamerica.org](https://rewiringamerica.org)) has made it their mission to identify these rebates and credit opportunities and provide easily accessible information to American homeowners and renters on how to go about making these changes.

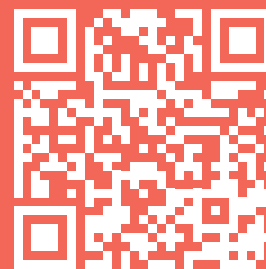
## WHY DO THESE IMPROVEMENTS MATTER?

They are important because they boost energy efficiency, lower costs, and reduce carbon emissions, benefiting both the environment and household budgets. Upgrading electrical systems prepares homes for growing electrification needs, ensuring they can handle higher loads safely and efficiently. Heat pumps offer energy-efficient alternatives to traditional heating and cooling, using up to 50% less energy. Proper insulation and en-

ergy-efficient windows reduce heat loss in winter and keep homes cooler in summer, lowering utility bills. A professional energy audit pinpoints inefficiencies, helping homeowners cut energy waste, shrink their carbon footprint, and save money.

In the broader context, these improvements support global efforts to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. When many homeowners make small changes, it creates a ripple effect, fostering greater community awareness and action against the climate crisis. ■

More information about the rebates and credits mentioned in this article will be available soon, scan the QR code or visit [rewiringamerica.org](https://rewiringamerica.org) to learn more about the program and savings available to you!



An advertisement for a senior living complex. The top half features a photograph of a modern, multi-story brick building with many windows and balconies. To the left of the building is a small icon of a house with an equals sign inside. To the right, the text "CONTACT US AT 216-941-3330" is displayed. Below the photo, on the left, is a silhouette of a person in a long dress reaching up towards birds. In the center, the text reads "APPLY TODAY TO THE WAITLIST FOR WEST PARK'S NEWEST SENIOR LIVING COMPLEX, THE FRANCISCAN VILLAGE ANNEX!" followed by "SOLICITE HOY A LA LISTA DE ESPERA PARA EL MÁS NUEVO COMPLEJO DE VIVIENDAS PARA PERSONAS MAYORES DE WEST PARK. ¡EL FRANCISCAN ANNEX!". At the bottom, the address "3648 ROCKY RIVER DR, CLEVELAND OH 44111" is listed. On the right side, there is a blue circle with the text "55+" and a white circle with the text "FREE UTILITIES".

# West Park Ward 17 Homeowner Resources

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



Visit [westparkkamms.org/live/maintain-a-home](https://westparkkamms.org/live/maintain-a-home).

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

**For General Housing Support, contact:**  
**CJ Demchak, 216-273-2899**  
or [CJ@westparkkamms.org](mailto:CJ@westparkkamms.org)

**For Senior Home Repair grants,**  
**contact: Allison Woods,**  
**216-273-2684**  
or [allison@westparkkamms.org](mailto:allison@westparkkamms.org)



**The programs listed below on this page now fall under the same application process known as the Universal Application. To apply for SHAP, HHP, LHC or RAH, please scan the QR code or visit [preliminary-universal-resident-submission.powerappsportals.us/](https://preliminary-universal-resident-submission.powerappsportals.us/)**



<b>Senior Homeowner Assistance Program (SHAP)*</b>	Grant available to low-income senior/disabled homeowners with houses in need of health, safety, and maintenance repairs such as roofs, porches, ramps, electrical or plumbing work.
<b>Healthy Home Production Program (HHP)</b>	HHP provides a grant to moderate-income Cleveland residents who have 80% of the Area Median Income and reside in (and own) single or two-family homes in need of health and safety repairs.
<b>Lead Hazard Control Program (LHC)</b>	Provides lead risk assessments, identifies lead-based paint and provides grants to control lead-based paint hazards.
<b>Repair-A-Home (RAH)</b>	RAH is an owner-occupied home repair program that provides loans to owner applicants who are not eligible for traditional financing for the repair of one (1) and two (2) family dwellings at interest rates ranging from deferred to between 0% and 3%, depending on the applicant's income. Half (50%) of the loan may be forgiven if the applicant remains in the property for a minimum of five (5) years. The maximum loan term is 30 years.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

### All Emergencies: 911

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

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

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

**Cleveland Fire, Smoke Alarms: 216-361-5535**

Cleveland Refuse: 216-664-3717

**Cleveland Animal Control: 216-664-3069**

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

**Cleveland Water Department: 216-664-3130**

Cleveland Department of Aging: 216-664-2833

**Gunning Recreation Center: 216-420-7900**

Cuyahoga County Auditor Call Center: 216-443-7452

**Cuyahoga Co. Real Property Office: 216-443-7010**

Social Service Referral: 211

<b>Homestead Water/ Sewer Discount*</b>	Secure a lower fixed charge and consumption rate for seniors and/or permanent disabled individuals.
<b>Senior Service Program (Ward 16 &amp; 17)*</b>	Schedule services such as gutter cleaning and lawn care for senior and disabled residents.
<b>Water Affordability Program*</b>	Offers a 40% discount on all standard water charges.
<b>Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)*</b>	HEAP assists eligible low-income residents with their winter home heating costs using natural gas, electric, oil, kerosene, or wood.
<b>Delinquent Tax Payment Plan</b>	Payment plans are available for homeowners who live in their homes. Landlords may be eligible for installment plans (up to 24 months).
<b>Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP)*</b>	Offers energy efficient measures designed to decrease utility bills & improve energy deficiencies.
<b>Cleveland 50/50 Sidewalk Residential Replacement</b>	Partnership between the city and residents. Eligible repairs include sidewalks, driveway aprons, & curbs at the end of driveways.
<b>Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS)</b>	A low-interest (under 2%), fixed-rate, equity-based loan for maintaining & improving homes 50+ years. Interior & exterior projects qualify. Plus, free technical assistance on questions related to home conditions or repair.
<b>Housing Enhancement Loan Program (HELP)</b>	Provides home improvement loans, at 3% points below normal bank rates, for homeowners. No restrictions on a borrower's income and few limitations on what improvements can be made to a property.
<b>West Park Sherwin-Williams Paint Program</b>	Discounts on paint and painting supplies. All those living in Ward 17 are eligible. Limit one per household.
<b>Senior Home Repair*</b>	Exterior home repair grants for seniors and adults with disabilities. Grants and grant amounts are income-dependent.
<b>Contractor List</b>	Looking for help with a project at home? WPKND has a list of local contractors and tips for hiring one.
<b>Age-Friendly Home Improvement Program (AFHIP)*</b>	Program for seniors/disabled homeowners to address critical home repair or maintenance projects.



**PAINT DISCOUNT:** WPKND has teamed with our local Sherwin-Williams store in Kamms Plaza to offer discounts on paint and painting supplies. All residents of Ward 17 are eligible for the discount. To receive a voucher, contact WPKND at 216-273-2899, limit one per household.



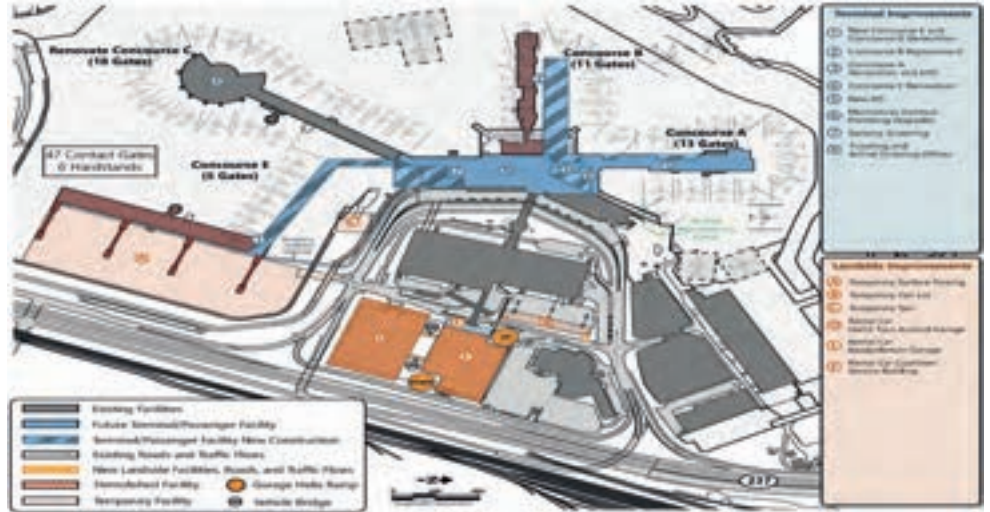
Be sure your home is safe with smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. The Cleveland Division of Fire has teamed up with the Red Cross Operation Save-A-Life Program to offer smoke detectors and fire safety information.  
**Contact 216-361-5535 for assistance.**

# Major Renovations Coming to Hopkins International Airport

By Councilperson Charles Slife



The master plan to renovate Hopkins International Airport includes concourse renovation and replacements, mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades as well as improvements to parking and general access.



Happy early birthday to Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, which will celebrate its 100th birthday on July 1, 2025. Since opening in 1925, hundreds of millions of passengers have flown through CLE, which has grown from a small airfield into a major airport and the busiest in Ohio.

Hopkins has been the site of a number of notable firsts in aviation, including:

- The first air traffic control tower
- The first ground-to-radio control system
- The first airfield lighting system
- The first two-level terminal, separating arrivals and departures for efficiency

CLE was also the first American airport to be connected to the city center by rail, when The Rapid was extended to it in 1968. Today, CLE offers flights to 45 destinations across the United States and beyond. Aer Lingus reports that its service to Ireland is performing above their initial expectations (though I think West Park saw that coming!) Hopkins is on pace to serve more than 10 million passengers in 2024, exceeding pre-pandemic traffic and comparable to passenger numbers from back when CLE was a Continental hub.

Despite its storied history, I think it's safe to say that Hopkins is a little out-

dated. By and large, the facility was built to be a hub, which it no longer is, with facilities for aircraft styles that are no longer in service. A cramped ticketing hall, long security lines, and crowded gates are all the consequences of this.

During the height of the hub era, a large number of travelers were only using CLE to make a connection. However, flash forward to 2024 and more passengers than ever, essentially all 10+ million, have Cleveland as their point of origin and/or destination. Customers experience long ticketing lines, security delays, congested baggage claims, and heavy traffic on the airport roadways simply because none of them were designed to accommodate so many travelers. Similarly, the shift from smaller commuter jets to larger planes means that many gates are functionally obsolete. I often get asked "why is Concourse D closed?" The answer: retrofitting it for larger planes isn't cost efficient. (For what it's worth, United continues to pay rent for Concourse D despite it being empty.)

In light of all of this, CLE's centennial coincides with a multi-billion, multi-year Terminal Master Development

Program (TMDP.) Upon completion, reconfigured roadways will lead passengers to a fully renovated terminal built for modern passenger travel. Consolidated and enlarged security checkpoints will lead to five concourses: renovated A and B and newly constructed C, D, and E. All concourses will be wider with increased seating, larger eating areas, and appropriately sized bathrooms. It is worth noting that the airport, as an enterprise fund, operates solely off the revenue it derives from airline leases and landing fees plus non-aeronautical revenue like parking and concessions. Your tax dollars do not support Hopkins's operations and will not support the implementation of the TMDP.

A re-imagined CLE is also spurring interest in reinvestments and new development in communities surrounding Hopkins, including West Park. This includes a proposed restaurant and hotel complex along Brookpark Road, west of The Aviator. As vice chair of the committee with oversight of CLE and as its local councilmember, I am eager to support the growth of Hopkins and to ensure that its success extends northward and positively impacts the residents of Ward 17. Stay tuned for more details! ■



Pradhab Kirupaharan, DO

## Fairview Hospital pulmonary program offers unique care close to home.

Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital's pulmonary hypertension (PH) and right heart catheterization program brings Cleveland Clinic's specialized pulmonary vascular care to you.

"Our program focuses on patients with pulmonary vascular diseases — including pulmonary hypertension and pulmonary embolism," says Pradhab Kirupaharan, DO, a pulmonologist who specializes in PH at Fairview Hospital.

### Dr. Kirupaharan says benefits of the PH program include:

- **Timely diagnosis** incorporating right heart catheterization, echocardiogram, imaging, exercise testing and pulmonary function tests.
- **Comprehensive care** to identify and address underlying issues that may be contributing to pulmonary hypertension, cardiac or systemic disease.
- **Individualized treatment** catered to each patient's specific type of pulmonary hypertension as well as their needs, symptoms and limitations.

### Valuable testing

Right heart catheterization (RHC), or pulmonary artery catheterization, is the gold standard in diagnosing pulmonary hypertension — previously only offered at Main Campus — and is used to measure pressures and blood flow within the heart and lungs. It is a necessary step to make accurate diagnosis and guide specific treatment strategies.

"Pulmonary hypertension can significantly impact a patient's quality of life by impairing their ability to walk, breathe and participate in the daily activities which make them whole. A prompt diagnosis is necessary for patients to feel better, stay out of the hospital and live longer," explains Dr. Kirupaharan. "Our patients become family, and it is an absolute privilege to help them in their journey."

*To schedule an appointment with Dr. Kirupaharan or another Cleveland Clinic pulmonologist, call 216.476.7983.*

## RESEARCH AND CLINICAL TRIALS ADVANCE PROSTATE CANCER CARE.



Robert Abouassaly, MD

Staying in the forefront of the latest medical care is important — especially when it comes to prostate cancer.

"Research and clinical trials are at the core of medical advances," says Robert Abouassaly, MD, a urologist at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital. "They offer patients access to the latest treatments and procedures."

### Dr. Abouassaly discusses some current prostate cancer clinical trials that are being studied to help with:

- **Diagnosis:** Exactview micro-ultrasound resolution increases ability to view cancer lesions potentially better than an MRI.

- **Staging:** PET/CT scans and an injectable drug can safely and accurately detect whether cancer is confined to the prostate gland or if it has spread to other areas.

- **Treatment:** Effects of dietary intervention (Mediterranean/low fat/low carb diet) on men with slow growing cancers.

Certain criteria must be met to ensure a patient is eligible to participate in clinical trials.

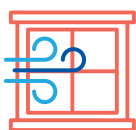
"Not only are patients possibly getting the best treatment available, they're helping others down the road ensure treatments work and are safe," explains Dr. Abouassaly.

*To schedule an appointment with Dr. Abouassaly or another Cleveland Clinic urologist, call 216.444.5600.*

# Preparing Your Home



# FOR WINTER



## 1. Caulk and Weather Strip Doors/Windows

Window insulator kits and foam for your doors and windows are great ways to keep cold air from coming into your home. To keep your heating bill down, re-caulk any broken seals to prevent drafts.



## 2. Install Storm Doors/Windows

This will help decrease drafts and can improve heating efficiency by up to 45%.



## 3. Reverse Direction of Ceiling Fan

If your fan blades are still set to turn counterclockwise, warm air will float to the ceiling, while cold air will get pushed down toward the floor. To avoid wintertime chills, switch the direction of your ceiling fan so that it rotates clockwise and the blades will circulate warm air down to you.



## 4. Inspect Fireplace

This will ensure any build-up inside your chimney from last season is removed. Always keep flammable materials, such as blankets and baskets, at least 3 feet away from the fireplace to avoid any hazardous situations. When the fireplace isn't in use, close the damper to prevent warm air from escaping and cold drafts from entering the house through the chimney.



## 5. Safeguard Exterior Spigots

Even after turning off an outdoor spigot, water that stays in an attached garden hose can freeze and cause pipes behind the spigot to burst. Always disconnect and drain garden hoses after using the spigot in cold weather and consider shutting off the valve inside the house to protect your pipes.



## 6. Clean Gutters

When gutters become blocked with leaves or twigs, snow and ice that would normally get directed away from the house will collect (and eventually melt) on the roof or run off onto the ground. This could lead to rotting boards, cracks in the foundation, or leaks in the basement. To avoid costly structural damage, inspect and clean your gutters before the first freeze. Use a trowel or scoop for large debris, and rinse away smaller debris with a garden hose.



## 7. Inspect Tree Limbs

Walk through your yard to check for any broken branches that should be trimmed. Dead branches that get covered in snow will easily snap, hit your home, and could cause thousands of dollars in property damage.



## 8. Protect Outdoor Furniture

Store any furniture in a shed or garage. Consider purchasing a weatherproof cover to ensure the quality stays intact.

**NEED HELP?**



*These resources can assist you!*

### Don't have tools or equipment?

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

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

### Need Indoor or Outdoor Chore Help?

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



**Call us at West Park Kamm's!**  
We can refer you to services for snow shoveling/removal.

# BECOME A FRIEND!

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_



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



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