Greenspace Environmental Assessments to Begin

By Ward 14 Office Staff

Everyone wants the parks and greenspaces in Ward 14 to be in the best condition possible. To ensure this, Councilman Cummins has hired a company – the Environmental Design Group – to perform environmental reviews of City owned parcels just north of Denison Avenue at W. 73rd Street and Berry Avenue, just south of Denison Avenue, and the City owned parcels near the intersection W. 56th Street and Storer Avenue.

The reviews will take about thirty days to complete and will report on any potential environmental concerns while laying a crucial groundwork for the future safe-use of these properties. The reviews include the gathering of general information on the past uses of the properties, as well as conducting an updated environmental database review for the property and surrounding area, performing an on the group inspection of the property.

In addition to the W. 73rd/Berry and W. 56th/ Storer sites, this work will continue to include inspecting and reviewing the conditions and opportunities for improvements to the following parks and green spaces:

• Historic Brookside Stadium (see www.brooksidestadium.webs.com);
• W. 67th Street Park;
• Reading Garden at the Cleveland Public Library Fulton Road Branch.

Councilman Cummins will be holding community meetings in the near future for the areas of the neighborhoods closest to these sites to get input from residents on improvements and amenities they would like to see. Those include installing new basketball courts, soccer-fields or even a mini-skateboard-park as well as more standard playground equipment for younger children as well as benches and other various seating areas, as well as attractive plantings of trees and flowers.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns regarding green space and parks please call Councilman Cummins’ office at 216-664-4238.

Neighborhood Safety Camera Installation Continues

Over the last year, Councilman Cummins’ office has overseen the installation of several safety cameras throughout Ward 14. In coordination with the City and the Cleveland Police Department, the most recent addition came last month with the installation of two, 24/7 monitoring, safety cameras in Mercedes Cotner Park in our Stockyard neighborhood. Neighborhood safety is a priority of the Ward 14 office and these cameras provide a critical infrastructure.

South Branch Meeting Draws Community Support for $3+ Million Restoration

By Timothy Diamond, Chief Knowledge Officer
Cleveland Public Library

This past spring, more than thirty area residents attended a public meeting at the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Tremont to view plans surrounding the restoration of the Cleveland Public Library’s South Branch on Scramton Road.

At the meeting, representatives from HBM Architects unveiled complete restoration plans for the building. The stone façade at the original entrance on Scramton Road will be preserved, and a new, ADA-compliant addition will extend the building to Clark Avenue.

Inside, the beautiful woodwork and perimeter shelving will be retained, along with an original fireplace and a restored skylight feature. The branch will include quiet study rooms, separate areas for teens and children, accessible restrooms and a meeting space that can seat fifty people. An option for after hours access means community groups could potentially use this meeting space outside of the branch’s standard operating hours.

The building’s history stretches back to 1911, when it was constructed with funds gifted by Andrew Carnegie. In 2013, Cleveland Public Library was compelled to close the aging building and temporarily relocate the branch to 2704 Clark Avenue. After soliciting community input, the Library resolved to restore, preserve and update the historic building rather than build a new branch. Community members largely lauded these efforts to preserve the character of the original Carnegie building while also updating and improving its existing facilities.

The newly restored branch library is tentatively slated to open by early summer 2018. View the full architectural plans and drawings at www.cpl.org/locations/south.

W. 73rd Lots

W. 56th, W. 56th & Storer Lots
International Village Awarded to Build 22 Affordable Homes

By Tony Bango, International Village Director
Metro West Community Development Office

As you know, Ward 14 is home to Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy, Cleveland’s English immersion school for refugee and immigrant students. And the International Village is a project that relies on agencies, programs and services within the Stockyard and Clark-Fulton neighborhoods, like Thomas Jefferson, to help the newcomer population transition to life in the US.

In June of 2017, the partnership between Metro West and the Cleveland Housing Network was awarded funding to build 22 affordable new homes on vacant lots in and around Thomas Jefferson School from the Ohio State Finance Agency. They anticipate breaking ground on these homes next summer.

The International Village continues to progress within the community. To date, seven homes have been rehabilitated, twelve more are under construction, and a new business has also been opened. Councilman Brian Cummins has worked hard to bring collaboration and partnerships. And they continue to take root with resettlement agencies, service providers, and residents. Since the beginning of 2017, six new families have relocated to the International Village so that they can begin a new way of life in Cleveland.

But these projects aim to not only help newcomers but also strengthen the current community, by removing blighted properties, rehabilitating current residents’ homes and adding to the vibrancy of the Stockyard neighborhood.

In May of 2017, Thomas Jefferson celebrated the graduation of 42 students; its largest graduation since it opened. In a recent partnership with Apollo Outreach, Zygote Press, Metro West, and Cleveland Roots, held a three-week arts and food education seminar that benefitted fifteen local CMSD students.

In addition to these housing developments, Ward 14 is also home to the Stockyard Model Block Initiative on W. 50th and W. 52st south of Storer. So far, the project rehabilitated ten properties and also helped 45 homeowners get repairs to the exterior of their homes. There is also an ongoing partnership with St. Ambrose Church’s Alpha Village project which has made a three-year commitment to the Stockyard neighborhood. Alpha Village continues to make an impact by providing assistance to area homeowners. On April 22, St. Ambrose held a volunteer event in the community to clean up and repair homes.

If you would like to see a similar cleanup event take place on your street or you would like to become involved with the International Village, please contact Tony Bango at 216-961-4242 ext. 207 or at abango@dscdo.org.

Since the beginning of 2017, six new families have relocated to the International Village so that they can begin a new life here in Cleveland.
Half Moon Bakery Brings Gourmet Twist to W. 25th Street

By Keisha Gonzalez, Director
Metro West Community Development Office

A common Clark-Fulton street food is about to receive a mind-blowing makeover. The Halfmoon Bakery, a Latin themed patisserie and restaurant located on the border of Cleveland’s La Villa Hispana and Jones Home Historic District, will be injecting the neighborhood with their gourmet twist on the empanadilla and various other baked goods.

After years of homebased catering, Lyz Otero and Gerson Velasquez have decided to take the leap and open their first brick and mortar location at the corner of W. 25th Street and Marvin Avenue, adjacent for the former Marvin Deli. Combined, Otero and Velasquez have over 15 years of restaurant and service industry experience at some of Cleveland’s most recognized dining venues. With a projected menu that will include take-out and casual dine-in needs. They plan to utilize both MetroHealth’s employee traffic, while also acting as a draw for area residents. Additionally, the bakery will offer catering options; meeting local needs as well as pursuing large scale contracts with local anchors such as MetroHealth and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Earlier this year, the bakery was also featured on FOX 8’s Cleveland Chain Reaction for La Villa Hispana. Find The Half Moon Bakery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thehalfmoongeveland and look for them to open this fall.

The Ward 14 Team is Here for You!

Did you know that you have access to a dedicated team of Ward 14 staff members? In addition to over a dozen staff at your disposal at the Metro West and Tremont West Community Development Offices, many of which are bilingual, you also have access to my Ward 14 support staff. Taylor, Jeremy and Johanna spend their time in the field meeting with residents, as well as at our Ward 14 office on Fulton Road, connecting residents with services and resources across the City.

Myself, along with the Ward 14 team, are here for you, and can be reached both over the phone, via email, and in person.

Get to know our team a little bit better!

Taylor has been my Executive Assistant for nearly three years. He serves on the board of directors for the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, and is one of the co-founders of the Cleveland Civic Tech and Open Data Collaborative. Taylor can be reached at mtenschel@clevelandcitycouncil.org or 216-664-4238.

Jeremy is a founding board member at EDWINS Leadership and Restaurant Institute. He is also the Special Projects Director at Passages, a non-profit that provides workforce development training and family services. Jeremy has developed programs such as the Building Futures initiative, and is in the process of opening Ironborne Brew Works, a socially conscious brewery that gives back to community causes. Jeremy can be reached at ward14office@gmail.com or 216-664-4238.

Johanna was the Executive Assistant to Brian for ten years in Wards 15 and 14. She now works part time, overseeing special projects throughout the Ward. She also serves on the Board of MetroHealth Hospital as a Patient and Family Advisor. Johanna can be reached at JHamm@clevelandcitycouncil.org.

Looking to speak with someone? Contact the Metro West office at 216-961-9073. Contact the Tremont West office at 216-575-0920.
SUMMER 2017 in REVIEW

La Placita Cleveland

By Kristyn Zollos, Development Specialist
Metro West Community Development Office

La Villa Hispana’s 3rd Annual La Placita summer series concluded with celebration on Saturday, August 19th. La Placita (the marketplace) is an open-air Latino-themed market and festival located at the intersection of Clark Avenue and W. 25 Street, behind the US Bank building (3104 W. 25th Street). The objective of the marketplace is to promote the neighborhood’s rich Latino culture in creating a destination that fosters economic development within the Clark-Fulton neighborhood.

This year’s June event featured over twenty food and artisan vendors, the majority of whom are budding entrepreneurs exploring the transition into storefront establishments. This year’s food vendors are selling a variety of goods, ranging from empanadas and Puerto Rican nachos, to piña coladas and Italian ice. The day also included samba, salsa, afro-latin dance performances, dance lessons, and live bands of various Latino-based styles.

As a part of the La Villa Hispana strategic plan, La Placita will evolve into a permanent indoor and year-round operation that houses micro-retail businesses; a permanent Mercado (shopping plaza) within La Villa Hispana. La Placita has demonstrated an ability to foster small business growth, eliminate economic barriers, attract merchants both locally and regionally, and create a robust retail area within our neighborhood.

If you have questions about La Placita or interest in participating in future events as a vendor, performer or volunteer, please contact Kristyn Zollos at kzollos@metrowestcle.org.

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Summer ciCLEvia

By the ciCLEvia Planning Team

ciCLEvia: Open Streets Cleveland kicked off its summer season on Sunday, June 4th with ciCLEvia Metro! ciCLEvia took place last year along West 25th Street, temporarily closing the road to cars from Clark Avenue to MetroHealth Drive and opening it to people-powered movement. This year’s event was set for the same location, but due to the threat of thunderstorms was moved indoors to the Family Ministry Center at Fulton and Trowbridge.

Presented by MetroHealth and Councilman Cummins, ciCLEvia Metro was full of fun activities for people of all ages and abilities. Recess Cleveland and Tito of The Party Rican rocked out in the gym, and local churches brought song and dance to the event.

Participants were able to Zumba, practice tai chi, blend their own smoothies on the blender bike, connect with community wellness resources, and play games throughout the day. The ciCLEvia: Open Streets Cleveland movement fosters a culture of health and sustainable transportation throughout the city, while highlighting unique assets of each neighborhood. The events reimagine Cleveland streets as places that are safe and fun for everyone!

More information about the events can be found at www.ciclevia.com.