Neighborhood Improvements and the New Year to Come

by Brian J. Cummins

As we enter the holiday season, and the start of a new year, it’s a time to reflect on the past year. A lot has happened. There’s been challenges with job growth and housing values, but progress is being made across multiple fronts.

Thirty vacant homes were rehabbed and forty-five homeowners were assisted with the help of programs and resources from groups like Habitat for Humanity, Saint Ambrose Catholic Parish and others.

At the same time, we continue identifying the worst of the worst vacant and abandoned properties with help from our local development corporations. This year alone, more than 80 homes were condemned and demolished.

Our office, based on feedback from residents, has placed more resources on code enforcement, with an emphasis on holding absentee landlords accountable. Over this past year more than 2,000 houses have been demolished.

Lincoln-West and Rhodes to Create New Academic Focused Small Schools

by Thomas Ott
Manager, CMSD News Bureau

Lincoln-West and James Ford Rhodes high schools are being re-designed into campuses that will host new, small schools within their facilities. The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) has initiated a process and has formed two community advisory teams that began work in November to create the small schools. The goal is to raise achievement by creating learning environments that can better meet the needs of today’s students and staff.

Teams representing CMSD and the community, including parents, teachers and students, are spending the next several months planning the new designs. A $3 million grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York will be utilized over several years to support the new schools. The schools are being planned to open next year.

Lincoln-West will offer two distinct school options although students will still come together under the Lincoln-West banner for interscholastic sports and other activities.

One of the new schools will focus on international studies, an academic focus that has already been established at the school; the other will concentrate on science and health. The MetroHealth System will serve as a “signature partner” of the science and health school.

In commenting about the new proposed academic focus, Ward 14 Councilman Brian Cummins said, “the new commitment and academic focus at Lincoln West will build off our communities two greatest assets, our diverse and international cultures and our regions primary Level One trauma facility and county hospital MetroHealth.”

New and enhanced school models are a critical part of The Cleveland Plan, a citywide blueprint for education reform. The new model at Lincoln-West will increase options for the West Side and be more convenient for the hub of Cleveland's Hispanic/Latino community.

Additionally, The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Cleveland plans to open new clubs on January 5th at Lincoln-West High School as well as Luis Munoz Marin School. The clubs will offer athletics, academic help and other activities five days a week after school and currently has a program at Walton Elementary school.

The CMSD clubs keep students active in late afternoon or early evening hours when parents may be working and their children might go unsupervised.

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FMC to Implement Storm Water Diversion Project
by Stephen Piscura,
The Family Ministry Center

In 2016, The Family Ministry Center (FMC) will begin implementing a plan to manage a large quantity of its onsite storm water in a more sustainable and useful way.

In being awarded a Green Infrastructure Grant for the Combined Sewer Area, FMC will divert storm water from entering the sewer by two primary means: by capturing it from campus roof space to be stored in an array of large-scale cisterns; and, by replacing one of two asphalt parking lots with pervious, grass pavers.

Instead of depleting large quantities of drinking water, the stored storm water will be utilized for irrigation of community garden plots, fruit trees, and more! The grass-paved lot, which faces Fulton Road, will be primarily used as functional green space for things like pickup sports, outdoor events, and summer camps. Its secondary use will be an overflow parking lot, since the grass-pavers are designed to bear the load of vehicle traffic.

Community-building, sustainability, food-security, and neighborhood beautification are just a few of the many goals inherent to the project.

The FMC and its partners are thrilled and deeply grateful to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for this extraordinary opportunity, and also wish to thank the Office of Councilman Brian Cummins as well as the Stockyard, Clark-Fulton & Brooklyn Centre Neighborhood Development Office for their invaluable support.

Clark Avenue Corridor Plan

Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC), in partnership with Stockyard, Clark-Fulton & Brooklyn Centre Development Office (SCFBC) created the Clark Avenue Corridor Plan utilizing grant funds: awarded by the Northeast Ohio Area Wide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) through their program Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI). The plan includes Clark Avenue from West 3rd Street to West 65th Street, TWDC, SCFBC and the City hired Behnke, Inc. as the consultant to complete the plan.

This TLCI plan will help guide future development plans for the Clark corridor while creating a more livable, pedestrian-friendly way of life. Three community meetings were held to get direct input from those who live and work along the corridor. If you would like to see the full plans please visit www.tremontwest.org/index/strategic-planning. Tremont West expects to receive funding for implementation of the recommended bike lane additions on Clark between West 14th and Quincy Avenue.

New Scranton South Side National Historic District
by Tremont West Development Staff

In late June, the National Parks District announced that the nomination of the Scranton South Side Historic District had been reviewed and approved. Scranton South Side is now officially listed as a National Historic District. The designation has been discussed for many years and the charge was led by residents and block clubs interested in recognizing and preserving the historic character of their neighborhood. The new National District is in addition to several other National and Local Historic Districts located on the near west side; namely Brooklyn Centre, Jones Home, Tremont, Lorain Station and Market Square.

The Scranton South Side Historic District is located in Cleveland in the area along Scranton Road which is historically known as the south side of Cleveland. The area was disconnected from the central city during the transformation of the passenger railway system in 1929 with the consolidation at Union Terminal Tower and the demolition of the Seneca Street Bridge. Later in 1967, the introduction of I-90 and the Scranton Road overpass bisected the District into a north and south end creating a dis- contiguous historic district. The Scranton South Side Historic District is located along Scranton Road beginning at the top of the bluff from the area known as Scranton Flats, the historic industrial node along the Cuyahoga River. Historically, the area along Scranton, which was named after Joel Scanton who first settled the area, was first laid out as farms by those arriving to the Connecticut Western Reserve from New England including the Kellogg, Brainard, Castle, Clark and Jennings families; names to which streets were assigned. The residential neighborhood moved southward through the District beginning primarily in the 1870s with heavy growth at the north end of the District prior to 1890 and continuing after 1900 south of Clark Street with no further residential development beyond 1924.

A special thank you to Tremont West Development staff member Andy Thomas for the initial leg work, Naylor Wellman, the consultants that put together the nomination, and Council Representatives Brian Cummins and Joe Cimperman for their support.

If you are interested in reading the full proposal for the national designation including maps, you can find it at: www.tremontwest.org/index/strategic-planning

Connect Your Community Center
Providing Free Computer Training and Computers

by Bill Callahan,
Connect Your Community Center

Did you know that one out of three Cleveland households are without home internet access and one of four homes don’t have a computer of any kind?

In 2014, we welcomed the opening of the Connect Your Community Center (CYC Center) in the Brooklyn Centre plaza, a project of the Ashbury Senior Community Computer Center. For over a year now, the CYC Center has served more than 125 residents who have taken advantage of its free classes.

The hands-on classes are an introduction to computer skills which include safe use of the internet, email and office applications. Neighbors who complete the classes are eligible to receive affordable priced computers. Thanks to a recent donation, computers are available FREE throughout December and January while supplies last.

Classes are held from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, and 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

To learn more and sign up please visit http://cyccenter.blogspot.com, email cyccenter@connectyourcommunity.org or call 216-548-8651.

Cleveland CityLIFT
Down Payment Assistance for Cleveland homebuyers

Cleveland CityLIFT, a housing program that offers down-payment assistance to Cleveland home buyers, is providing up to $15,000 to people who qualify.

The down-payment assistance is offered to those whose collective incomes of the household are at or below 120 percent of the median household income in Greater Cleveland.

That means a family of four could have an annual income of up to $79,300, and still qualify.

Neighborhoods America, a national organization focused on affordable housing, is distributing the money through the local non-profit Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland (NHS).

Assistance is not limited to first-time home buyers. But the home must be within the city limits of Cleveland.

For more information about the CityLIFT program, visit www.nhsclleveland.org or call 216-458-4663.
Women’s Recovery Center Working to Double Capacity

The Women’s Recovery Center located in the middle of the Stockyard Neighborhood at 6209 Storer Ave, is providing life-saving services. The Center is boldly addressing the deadly opiate epidemic by planning a reconfiguration of their building space to double their capacity to offer intensive outpatient alcohol and other drug treatment services.

The Center serves 475 women and their families. Their Rebuilding Lives Campaign has raised more than $600,000 of the estimated $750,000 construction budget. Currently women are finding a 3 - 4 week waiting list to be admitted to the treatment facility and access for detoxification services have even longer waiting periods.

Robert Maschke, Architect, was awarded the American Institute of Architects national award for the Unbuilt Project of the Year in 2013 for the design. For more information call 216-651-1450 or visit www.womensctr.org.

Utility and Tax Preparation Assistance

by Staff, SCFBC
216-961-9073 | 3167 Fulton Road, Suite 303

The HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Programs) Office at the Stockyard, Clark-Fulton and Brooklyn Centre Community Development Office can help you with past due utility bills. If your gas service is off or if you need help signing up for payment assistance, schedule an appointment by calling 216-518-4014. To receive assistance you must bring your current gas and electric bills, your photo ID, Social Security cards and birth certificates for everyone in the household, and 90 days’ worth of paystubs or a benefits statement. The HEAP office is open from 8:30 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday. The office will be closed for the winter holidays from Thursday, December 24 until Monday, January 4.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance "VITA" Site at SCFBC will open in January 2016 to offer FREE income tax preparation for residents. Call 211 to schedule an appointment. Hours will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00 to 8:00 pm and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Walk-ins are also seen but it is recommended that you make an appointment to ensure a timeslot is available. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Volunteer tax preparers and greeters are also needed. Contact the SCFBC office 216-961-9073 if you are interested in being trained to volunteer with the tax site.

Do you have neighborhood safety concerns?

Speak directly with your First and Second District Police Commanders McCartney and Stacho.

The First District Community Relations
FIRST THURSDAY of each month, 7:00 pm
St. Ignatius of Antioch Church, 10205 Lorain Avenue.

The Second District Community Relations
SECOND TUESDAY of each month, 7:00 pm
Applewood Centers, 3518 W 25th
(In the gymnasium that fronts onto Daisy Avenue)
**Ward 14 News**

**Ward 14 Council Member**
Brian J. Cummins

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**Ward Office**
3167 Fulton Road, #305A
Cleveland, OH 44109

**Visit www.ClevelandCityCouncil.org/ward-14**

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**Winter Snow Removal Policy**

**SNOW AND ICE CONTROL:** During a snow and ice event, service is provided to the primary main/secondary thoroughfares throughout the City. Service is provided until the primaries are fair but passable allowing for service to the residential streets and service alleys as soon as possible. As the drivers report conditions are fair and passable and the supervisors verify conditions, management orders trucks into servicing residential streets based on conditions. The goal is to service all areas within 72 hours after the event ends depending on the actual amount of snowfall. Residents that normally park on the street should find alternate parking in advance of a significant snow event. The residents are advised to use the entire width of their street - curb to curb. This will not only keep cars from being buried under plowed snow but will also create a clear path for emergency vehicles.

For more information or to report hazardous snow conditions on your street, call 664-2510. When calling in a request for service, be sure to ask for a reference number. Should your request be delayed, you will be provided your reference number.

**For more information or to report hazardous snow conditions on your street, call 664-2510.**

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**Community Highlight FROM 2015**

**9th Annual Stockyard Neighborhood Bike-A-Thon**

The community came out in droves for the 9th Annual Stockyard Neighborhood Bike-A-Thon held on May 16, 2015.

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**Community Highlight FROM 2015**

**La Placita 2015**

Cultural festivities abound at this past summer’s La Placita, held on various Saturday’s.

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**Archwood United Church of Christ Discount Produce Sale**

Fresh fruits and vegetables at discounted prices!

**When:**
Saturday, January 9th, February 12th & March 13th

**Where:**
Archwood United Church of Christ
(2800 Archwood Avenue)

**Time:**
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

**Volunteers Needed!** Earn TimeBank Credits!
For details or to volunteer, please call: 216-280-4168

**Note:** We are not able to process electronic benefit transfer (EBT) at this time.

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**Flu + You**


Are you 65 years of age and older? Flu is a serious disease, especially for older adults. The Cleveland Department of Public Health provides flu vaccines at no cost to residents. Please bring your card if you have insurance. If you don’t have insurance, no problem – NO ONE WILL BE TURNED AWAY!

**Get Your Flu Vaccine Here:**
McCafferty Health Center
4242 Lorain Avenue • 216-651-500
Every Friday, 8:30 - 11:30 am

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**Senior Transportation Connection**

We understand that sometimes you may need to cancel your scheduled trip with Senior Transportation Connection. If so, do not forget to cancel by 7:00 am on the day of your trip. Call 1-800-983-4782, 24 hours a day.

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For details or to volunteer, please call: 216-280-4168

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