

(continued from page 1)

in a decade; and The Great Lakes Brewing Company will be handcrafting an official Centennial Brew for the celebration.

Many in the crowd tweeted live updates about the 100th birthday bash. Social media platforms are helping to tell the story of the OHC and the West Side Market, and intensifying and growing their loyal and devoted following. The official Centennial hashtag, which will be used year-round – #wsm100 – became a trending topic (or a “frequently discussed” topic) in greater Cleveland the days after the announcement.

Speakers at the press conference, which received extensive coverage by the *Plain Dealer* and many local news stations, included national chef celebrity and Clevelander Jonathon Sawyer, and our local OHC celebrities Diane Dever and Melissa DeCaro – Market vendors – who reflected on the personal connection that they and their families share with the institution.

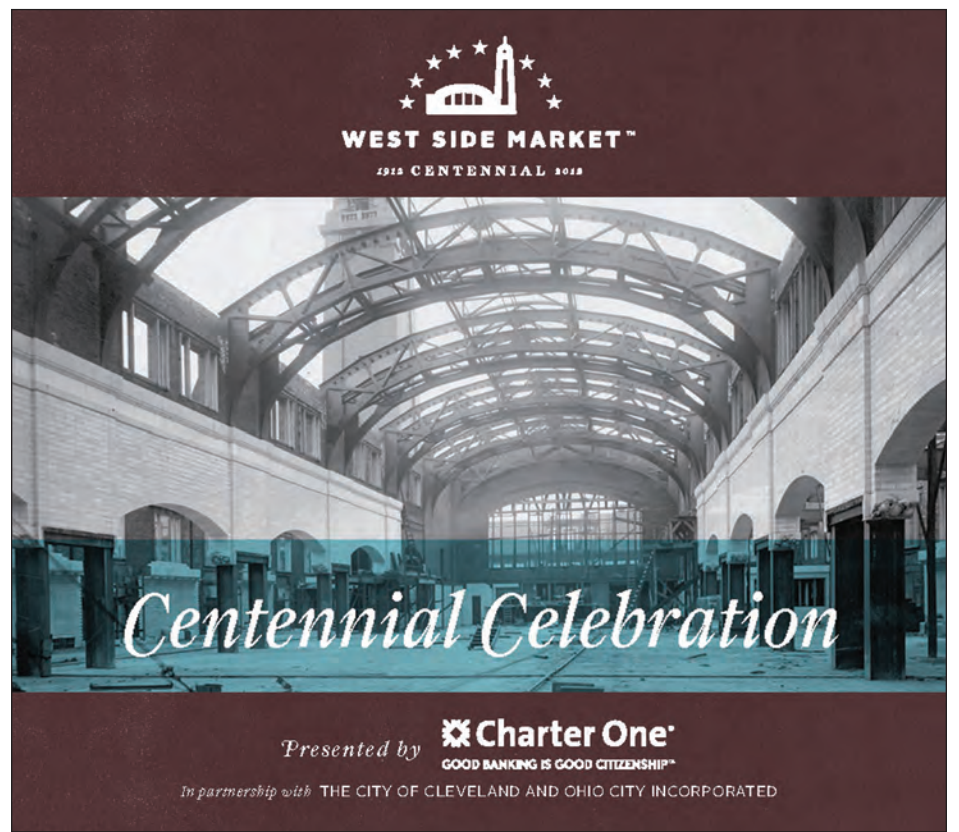
Amanda Dempsey, Market District Director, said a strong civic, corporate and

community collaboration was critical to planning a celebration of this magnitude.

“We are excited for the community to partake in these activities designed to pay homage to the Market’s storied past as well as its current position at the forefront of Cleveland’s emerging local food economy,” she said.

Other faces in the crowd included OHC chief Eric Wobser and his team, Council President Marty Sweeney, Councilman Matt Zone, Pat Conway from the Great Lakes Brewing Company, Mike and Pete Mitchell from Mitchell’s Homemade Ice Cream, West Side Market Manager Christine Zuniga Eadie, OHC resident and former Congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar and Charter One president Ken Marblestone.

Charter One received special thanks from many at the event for becoming the presenting sponsor of the Centennial Celebration. Charter One has invested more than a half a million dollars to the OC Market District over the past two years to assist with development in the district. ★



Centennial events include:

- ★ *Sat., June 2* | **Official Public Kick Off** event at Market Square Park with ethnic delights, a neighborhood fireworks display and a Mitchell’s Homemade Ice Cream social.
- ★ *Sept., 21-23* | **8th International Public Markets Conference:** Neighborhood celebration on Friday, September 21st in Market Square Park.
- ★ *Sat., Oct. 7* | **Street Festival and Parade** produced by Live Nation with costumes designed by the Cleveland Museum of Art’s Parade the Circle; expected to attract 30,000 attendees and fill West 25th Street with live entertainment, food delicacies and artisan vendors. Market to be open on Sunday!
- ★ *Sat., Nov. 3* | **Centennial Gala** co-chaired by Iron Chef Michael Symon and Food & Wine’s Next Best Chef Jonathon Sawyer that will feature national and local chef talent as well as debut a Centennial Brew from Great Lakes Brewing Company.

For more information, please go to www.westsidemarket.org/centennial



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Ohio City Argus

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New look designed by – ASHLEY CASEY | ashleycasey.com

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Our deepest thanks to longtime editors Bernie Thiel and Mireille Sjoblom-Kious for founding the *Argus* and spending tireless hours to ensure its’ success. As we go froward we look to stay true to the *Argus*’ roots while making small adjustments, including the “new look” of the *Argus* debuting in this edition.

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Join us for the

Ohio City Incorporated Annual Meeting

and learn about what we are up to!

Wednesday, April 18, 2012 - 5:30pm
 at the Saint Ignatius Breen Center

- ★ \$10 suggested donation to cover food costs
- ★ cash bar

We hope to see you there!

★ LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

All Together Now

2012 is a historic year in Ohio City. One of the region's major cultural institutions, the West Side Market, will celebrate its Centennial in 2012. Ohio City Incorporated is partnering with the City of Cleveland, Councilman Joe Cimperman, the West Side Market Vendors and other neighborhood stakeholders to celebrate this grand occasion and to position the Market for success over the next 100 years. Charter One will serve as the presenting sponsor of the Market Centennial, bringing its total support of neighborhood activities to over \$500,000 over a three year-period. This support has been critical in our efforts to attract new businesses, build a local food economy and to throw a party befitting one of our most significant community treasures.

The impending deadline of the Market Centennial provided the neighborhood with a hard deadline to work backwards from in order to accomplish some longstanding goals and to reimagine what was possible for our community. A special improvement district, the third in the history of the City of Cleveland, was passed by neighborhood property owners and will kick off in April. Ohio City Incorporated is partnering with the Downtown Cleveland Alliance to bring safety and cleaning ambassadors to the Market District.

A completely renovated Market Square Park will open in May, provid-

ing a beautiful space for the community to gather in the heart of the Market District. Wayfinding signage will also be installed in May and will help visitors to navigate the neighborhood. Several storefront renovations and new business signs are either completed or about to begin, and were made possible through generous neighborhood improvement grants from Lutheran Hospital and Saint Ignatius High School. These improvements have helped to attract over 30 new businesses to the neighborhood, including the corporate headquarters of Mitchell's Homemade Ice Cream and Cleveland's first hostel, both of which will open in time for the Market Centennial later this year.

These accomplishments, none of which would have been possible without a massive collection of partners, have helped place a regional spotlight on Ohio City in 2012. While much of this attention has been based on the emergence of a thriving Market District at West 25th and Lorain, two additional 2012 milestones are equally important in Ohio City's continued evolution into one of the world's great neighborhoods.

The first class of the Near West Inter-generational School will finish later this year, a testament to the determination of Ohio City families to bring an innovative public charter school to the neighborhood. In addition, the Ohio City Incorporated Board of Trustees affirmed its commitment to ensuring economic

diversity in the neighborhood through passing a resolution supporting quality housing options for all income levels.

As Ohio City marches toward greatness, it is clear that the end game is not simply creating a tourism destination or a haven for young professionals. Instead, we have come together to build on the assets of the Market District and beyond to become a complete neighborhood for families that celebrates all types of diversity. 2012 is sure to be remembered as a significant year in this continued journey, come celebrate it with us at our annual meeting, taking place April 18th at the Saint Ignatius Breen Center for Performing Arts at 5 pm. For more information go to www.ohiocity.org. ★



Eric Wobser

ERIC WOBSE
Executive Director

For more information on Ohio City Inc. and its programs, please contact:

Ohio City Incorporated
2525 Market Avenue, Suite A
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
216.781.3222
www.ohiocity.org

OHIO CITY INC *Mission Statement*

To develop, preserve, and promote our diverse, historic, urban community as a desirable place to live, work, study, play and worship by:

- Facilitating the creation of vehicles for community problem solving and informed neighborhood input into residential, commercial, and institutional development planning;
- Developing or assisting the development of quality new and rehabilitated homes for all income levels;
- Developing or assisting the development of quality retail, office, institutional and industrial properties;
- Preserving the historic character of the neighborhood.



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OHC is the Place to Be★

by CATHERINE PODOJIL

New businesses are sprouting in Ohio City like spring crocuses, and in this economy other communities might well be asking why. It's simple, according to Sam McNulty, one of the neighborhood anchors: "It's a dense, walkable, urban neighborhood, with historic architecture, a strong creative class, great night life, the West Side Market, and a fun and frugal place to shop." He could go on, but other entrepreneurs - three restaurants, a café, a vintage emporium, and a beer/wine house with food - have their own take on the neighborhood's appeal, and some of them have opened up their businesses not just in the past year, but in the past few months. All are thriving.

Nolan Konkoski and his partner Molly Smith opened SOHO Kitchen and Bar (1889 W. 25th; 216-298-9090) in November of last year. The name? It stands for Southern Hospitality, of course. Konkoski says that as he and Molly (neither of them from the south) traveled and ate, they kicked around ideas for a restaurant of their own. "We felt [southern cooking] was something that was lacking, something that Clevelanders would embrace, and something that we felt passionate about. We focus heavily on the

Cajon/Creole and Low Country cuisines of New Orleans and South Carolina, putting our own stamp on them in subtle ways. The reception so far has been fantastic."

Konkoski credits Ohio City, Inc. with making the neighborhood business-friendly. "They cared about my concept, they didn't care that they didn't know us." He says OCI makes it possible to negotiate the thicket of city regulations and permits which often make businesses looking elsewhere just give up.

Roberto Rodriguez's Orale Kitchen Restaurant (1979 W. 25th; 216-781-4190) opened last August, an addition to the prepared food stand Rodriguez has run at the West Side Market for many years. A chef for over two decades, some in his native Cancun, he moved here in 1987. Looking for a restaurant site, he was first attracted to the potential space by "high tiled ceilings, an exposed brick wall," and then by the fact that "Ohio City had changed so much and businesses were quickly coming back. Ohio City is rapidly becoming the new place to be in Cleveland."

Orale doesn't serve the Mexican food that most Americans are used to. "The only ground meat we use is the chorizo we make in our kitchen. We make our sausage from chicken and lamb." For non meat eaters, "We cater a lot to our vegan and vegetarian patrons. Every Tuesday is Vegan Day. Our vegan entrees include

the Negro Modelo beer battered avocado tacos, with is slowly becoming one of our signature dishes. And all of our salsas are vegan. We offer salsas with no pepper at all to salsas that can make your eyes water." But to Rodriguez salsas are not all about the heat. "We put a lot of focus on the flavor as well." Rodriguez makes one from mango and habanero peppers, another from pineapple, mint, jalapeno, and cocoanut. No matter what Orale patrons eat, Rodriguez wants them to leave saying "Wow! That was amazing!"

For dessert, Ohio City diners might make their way to Bon Bon Pastry and Café (2549 Lorain; 216-458-9225). Proprietor and pastry chef Courtney Bonning opened her site late last year after operating a wholesale bakery in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood. "My passion is to bring handmade pastries and delicious simple foods to Cleveland. I chose Ohio City because of its culture and beauty." Her goal was to have a European style café, where you walk in right off the street, sit down and eat. "It's not as formal as a typical restaurant environment. My store is all windows, so it's as if you're right on the street."

Bon Bon café offers entrees, baked goods and beverages, as well as a site for hosting private events and offsite catering. Bon Bon competed in the Food Network's Cupcake Wars and won - leading to an event serving their wares at Dodger Stadium. "We're particularly well known for our handmade croissants and wedding cakes, says Bonning. "I hope people feel a sense of comfort and community at Bon Bon."

The non food-and-drink focus in this group is Deering Vintage (1836 W. 25th; 216-274-1211). There doesn't seem to be a Cleveland community that proprietor Cynthia Deering hasn't been a part of - stores in La Place and Beachwood Place, west on Lorain, Tremont, and since last October, Ohio City. Her shop focuses on vintage clothing and accessories (synonym - tchotchkes) for women, with a small men's department.

"Everything is hand-picked by me. I like the idea of treasure hunting. But I don't scuba dive because I don't like to get my hair wet, so my business is my own private treasure hunt. Every day I find something new." What's selling? "Right now it's winter coats, made in the '70s and before, the really well-made ones that today would cost \$1000, they're going for \$75 to \$150. Later on we'll sell skimmers and sheaths, the form-fitting dresses, as well as shirtwaists."

"I chose Ohio City because it reminded me of the ultra cool neighborhoods in Chicago. I'm in love with the OC, as we call it. And I share space with Senjiva Studio, which does alterations, so it's really convenient." So, bring in your vintage stuff to show Cynthia, but call first to be sure she's not out at the bank.

As a non-driver, biker Nate Williams of Bogtrotter's Doorstep (1848 W. 25th; 861-5515) appreciates the Ohio City community as somewhere "with places easy to walk to and good for young families." His motto - "Damn good handcrafted sandwiches" - refers to the sandwiches he makes from scratch - with meat, lots of it, roasted in house and au jus (though he will make vegetarian sandwiches for patrons who want them). The word doorstep refers to a huge sandwich that you can use to prop the door open. A bogtrotter is an Irish rogue, similar to the Aussie larrikin.

Bogtrotter's, open since last November, is basically a carry-out, with only two bar stools (in fact, if you call Wil-

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on the web


Bonbon Cleveland  
bonboncleveland.com

Market Garden Brewery  
marketgardenbrewery.com

Orale! 
oralecm.com

SOHO  
sohocleveland.com

Bogtrotters Doorstep 

Deering Vintage 



serves a customer), but you can take your sandwich over to Old Angle Tavern to eat it with their wares. Williams says other restaurants are scheduled to open soon in the neighborhood. When asked if this worries those already there, he responds, "No! Competition brings business. Many of us who work here also live here and we're here for the long haul. We're not just in business to live off the community." In other words, bring 'em on!

"Ohio City had changed so much and businesses were quickly coming back. Ohio City is rapidly becoming the new place to be in Cleveland."

Speaking of mottos, Sam McNulty has two: "Eat local, drink local," and "We drink all we can. The rest we sell." McNulty is the owner of Market Garden Brewery (1939 W. 25th; 216-650-3583), right across the street from Bier Markt, owned by - well, Sam McNulty. He also runs Bar Cento and Speakeasy, making an Ohio City foursome. Market Garden opened in June of last year. McNulty says, "I loved the neighborhood and wanted to live, work, and play here." He moved to the neighborhood seven years ago, across from Bier Markt.

Market Garden sells unfiltered beer (filtering kills the proteins and some of the taste) and sessionable brews (lower alcohol content for a longer drinking session). "We have a 120-seat four-season beer garden and a wood burning fireplace, and our award-winning chef Michael Nowak creates a locally sourced modern American pub fare menu. The brewery plans to distill its own spirits soon - "a white whiskey, and a honey-infused and a hops-infused whiskey."

Passion and hard work, backed by a supportive community, spur these six entrepreneurs. Says Courtney Bonning of Bon Bon Café, "We can't wait to spend the day with you." ★



Nolan Konkoski and Molly Smith, owners of SOHO Kitchen and Bar



Courtney Bonning, owner of BonBon Pastry & Cafe



Nate Williams, owner of Bogtrotter's Doorstep

Ohio City Launches Lorain★

by **JOE CIMPERMAN**,
Cleveland City Councilman Ward 3
MATT ZONE,
Cleveland City Councilman Ward 15

Ohio City, like its neighbors Detroit Shoreway, Tremont and Downtown Cleveland, has had unprecedented growth in the last two years. While the growth has centered around the Market District, there is both a need and a desire to “turn the corner” onto Lorain Avenue for investment and growth. This past fall, we partnered with Ohio City Incorporated to lead a community engagement process designed to accomplish that goal by focusing our attention on Lorain Avenue as Ohio City’s Main Street.

Perhaps Father Bill Murphy from Saint Ignatius High School said it best when he stated, “The goal of this process is to turn Lorain Avenue from a latently charming street to blatantly charming street.” During the course of the three-day planning charrette made possible with funding from NPI and facilitated by the Kent State Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, hundreds of residents and stakeholders attended “Launch Lorain” and shared their vision for a complete street cared for by all who call Ohio City home.

Both of us share representation of Lorain Avenue, thus we are equally committed to transforming

the street from an underperforming and in sections blighted avenue to a maintained, beautiful, mixed-use, and multi-modal street that brings residents from Clinton and Chatham together. Our vision is for that energy and investment to stretch from the new bicycle and pedestrian path over the Hope Memorial Bridge, past the West Side Market and through Saint Ignatius’ campus, into the historic buildings filling in the street, along Urban Community School, and ending up in Detroit-Shoreway at the EcoVillage and the Michael J. Zone Recreation Center.

Creating walkable neighborhoods with amenities and services that meet the needs of neighborhood residents is an absolute priority for both of our wards. This can be achieved through many different ways including business attraction and the City of Cleveland Storefront Renovation Program, in addition to improved conditions of sidewalks and streets through a coordinated streetscaping effort. Additionally, with the recent public investment in Market Square Park, Novak Park, Zone Recreation Center and the planned improvements for Greenwood Park, Lorain Avenue can be the greenway connector for family programming, healthy living, and recreational activities.

Lorain Avenue was intended to be enjoyed by people, not automobiles. Slowing traffic, creating safer pedestrian crossings at key intersections, allow-

ing more on street parking, and animating the street through business development will help accomplish that. So will an investment by the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority. Lorain Avenue cuts through a half-dozen City Council wards, a host of major institutional anchors, an impressive array of businesses, and possibly the largest concentration of City of Cleveland residents within a ten minute walk of a commercial main street. An improved experience with better rapid transit connections, a bus rapid transit system, and transit waiting environment investments would have an impact not just on Ohio City, but the entire Lorain Avenue corridor.

“Launch Lorain” was a first step towards establishing a clear and compelling vision, developed in partnership with the residents, businesses, institutions, and stakeholders of Ohio City. This spring, we look forward to working with Ohio City Incorporated on the release of the drafted “Launch Lorain” report and gathering feedback from all stakeholders before the plan is finalized. Strong community participation is one of the great strengths of Ohio City. We welcome all voices and opinions and look forward to that continued dialogue. ★

Ohio City Writers to Serve Young Scribes at Lorain Avenue Center★

by **FRANK W. LEWIS**

Last year I led an after-school creative writing club for fourth- and fifth-graders at my son’s school. On the first day everyone introduced themselves – name, grade, what kinds of books you like, etc. Everything was going fine until we got to Mary Jane, who stood up and declared: “My name is Cheez-It. I was born on Mars, and I moved here from California yesterday.”

For about two seconds, no one reacted. Then hands shot up all around the room as the other kids begged to change their answers. To restore order I had to promise that the following week we’d set aside time to choose nicknames for everyone.

I wondered what I’d gotten myself into. But to my great relief the kids came back, week after week, and dove with increasing confidence into each new project. We deconstructed some well-known superhero origin stories, then created our own. We listened to awesome songs about trivial topics, like Run-DMC’s “My Adidas,” and penned our own lyrics – some of which weren’t trivial at all but deeply heartfelt. We wrote short plays, which resulted in some chaotic, half-improvised performances, which drove home the importance of working through your story on paper. At least I hope it did.

At any rate, we had fun, and the experience affirmed my then-tentative plan to leave journalism behind for good and open a non-profit creative writing center for Cleveland kids.

If an idea becomes a reality the first time someone calls a meeting to discuss it, then Ohio City Writers was born on October 20, 2010. That’s the day I met with Eric Wobser and others from Ohio City Inc. to pitch my plan. As it turned out, Eric was familiar with the San Francisco-based model I am emulating and had long believed it would be a perfect fit for Ohio City. Eric then brought in Cleveland Public Art and Councilman Joe Cimperman, and a plan came together.

Sixteen months later I write this in the storefront space I’m renting in the Miller Building, at West 32nd and Lorain. Since signing the lease late last year, I’ve been painting, acquiring furniture, raising money and otherwise preparing to open the doors to young aspiring writers from across Northeast Ohio.

“...writing is an overlooked key to transforming learning in the United States.”

Ohio City Writers’ mission is to organize programs and volunteers to help kids and teens hone their skills with the written word and, by extension, their critical-thinking and problem-solving abilities. As The College Board’s National Commission on Writing asserted in 2003, “Whether on paper or on screen, writing is an overlooked key to transforming learning in the United States.” That’s because writing is about far more than telling stories. It’s the social studies of one’s own life. It’s the science of personal expression. It’s algebra with words. Writing exercises all the mental muscle groups and sharpens vision. As Flannery O’Connor once put it, “I write because I don’t know what I think until I read what I say.”

Of course there are literacy programs in Cleveland, and organizations that engage kids in writing as some large or small portion of their missions. I’ve met with folks at many of them. My goal is not to replace any of them or duplicate efforts, but to expand on what’s available in Greater Cleveland. What will make Ohio City Writers different is our ability to organize workshops in every conceivable type of writing, from the sublime to the ridiculous, and led by people with real-world experience. Our students



Frank Lewis in Ohio City Writer’s space at 3208 Lorain Avenue

will benefit from the guidance of accomplished and passionate writers, from every genre and discipline, from across Northeast Ohio. And whenever possible we’ll help students turn their written words into publications, blogs, podcasts, songs and performances, through collaborations with local publishers, artists, venues and anyone else who wants to support the cause.

In fact what you’re reading now is the introduction of one such collaboration. Ohio City Writers’ role in the reboot of The Argus will be getting kids involved as contributors. What better way to connect with your neighborhood than to write about it?

When I set out to build a network of supporters for OCW, I started with people I’d worked with and met during my years as editor of Cleveland Free Times and Scene. Those small circles widened quickly, and I am continually amazed and inspired by the way the Near West community in particular has rallied around the project. Ohio City Inc. and Detroit Shoreway made the previously vacant storefront space available at start-up-friendly terms; I’d be nowhere, literally and figuratively, without them. Open

Yoga Gallery, Happy Dog, Great Lakes Brewing, Prosperity Social Club and Market Garden Brewery have all hosted fundraising events, and Palookaville Chili is planning one. Sam Cahill of Second Shift Design Studio is building tables for us. An Ohio City babysitting co-op donated a load of notebooks, pens and pencils. St. Ignatius High School has agreed to encourage its students to volunteer to work with younger kids. And every week I hear from new folks who want to get involved.

In 2010, when I was still pondering whether to pursue this project, I read Children of God, the magnificent sci-fi novel by Cleveland-area writer Mary Doria Russell. Near the end I came across this line: “It will be well, he told himself, and let the universe take care of itself while he took care of one apt and eager student.” This single, beautiful sentence nudged me closer to committing and still serves as a guiding principle. Is it possible to change the world one child at a time? I don’t know, but I can’t think of a better way to try. ★

To learn more, visit ohiocitywriters.org

★ OHIO CITY INC. NEWS



Charter One Funds SOLO Projects★

by ALEXANDRA DEBIASE

Thanks to critical funding from Charter One Bank, Ohio City residents that live south of Lorain Avenue have seen sorely needed improvements to their neighborhood in recent months. These include the repair and beautification of ten homes, expansion of the ever-popular Ohio City “Pie Slice” street signs, and rejuvenation of two bountiful community gardens.

There is no question as to why these new cleanup and beautification efforts have been focused in the South of Lorain neighborhood initially with the hopes of expanding neighborhood-wide. The affordable historic housing stock as well as the proximity to the Market District, RTA and other amenities make SoLo a desirable neighborhood on the rise. Recent news that the Monroe Cemetery is receiving funds for a major renovation only adds to this excitement.

According to Pat Rybka, a resident of Chatham Avenue for over 30 years, the needed improvements have not only made a difference in her own property, but improved the surrounding neighborhood as well. After receiving utility

work, her front gate was never repaired or replaced. With help from the Charter One funds, Pat was able to have a new gate professionally installed.

“Now my home looks nicer than it ever was before,” Pat said. “I am so proud of the staff at Ohio City Incorporated and how they’ve helped me in every way possible.”

Grant funds were also used to transform the longstanding Chatham Community Garden into a vibrant community gathering space. Saint Ignatius High School teacher and Garden Coordinator Terry McCafferty is excited to see the space evolve with the addition of two benches and a picnic table, as well as the installation of a hummingbird and butterfly garden filled with native plants that will attract useful pollinators for the surrounding vegetables.

“Our old benches were rotting and filled with carpenter ants,” Terry said. “The new benches and table will be placed on a new patio, made out of bricks from the old Dunbar school. It will be a great place for community gatherings and cookouts.”

Through the launch of the Ohio City Shines program this spring, neighbor-



Ohio City street signs were installed throughout the neighborhood in late 2011

hood cleanup and beautification projects such as these will become standard programming. Residents South of Lorain can celebrate the success of these projects while serving as an example

for all of Ohio City, helping to bridge the perceived gap between “NoLo” and “SoLo.” More information about Ohio City Shines including a late-March kickoff meeting will be released soon. ★

Ohio City’s Warm February Night: Observations on Brite Winter Fest★

by RYAN DEBIASE

Northeast Ohio has been granted somewhat of a reprieve from frigid temps and blustery snow showers this season, but that did not stop the organizers of Brite Winter Fest from celebrating the region’s least celebrated season. Residents and visitors of Ohio City collected around bonfires near Market Square, drawing together in the spirit of community but also for warmth, to listen to local bands and down their fair share of hot chocolate or libations from hip, Brite Fest mugs.

The temperatures dipped below the freezing mark, but luckily folks could duck into myriad establishments along W. 25 to thaw. For a place like Johnnyville Slugger, maybe it was their first time or maybe they had been there before, but everything felt new and fresh.

The Winter Fest afforded Ohio City a jovial, crisp atmosphere. As light and sound danced gracefully in the biting cold, attendees huddled together or kept strolling to keep warm. The exposition of aural pleasure reached a steaming crescendo near the ten o’clock hour, as an energetic cover of Neil Young’s “Rockin’

in the Free World” reverberated halfway to Monroe Ave. and then back again.

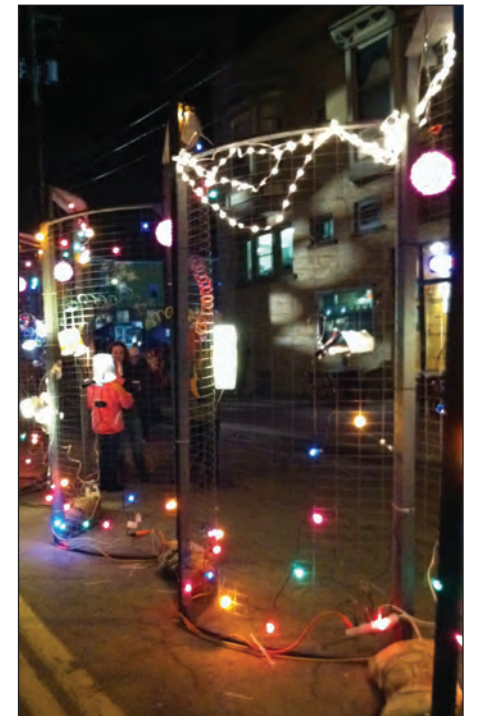
This year’s event signified somewhat of a departure from the relative seclusion of Hart Crane Memorial Park in the Flats, the venue for previous Brite Winter events. While Brite Winters I and II felt more spontaneous (and to a certain extent, more subversive), the 2012 iteration was a burlier beast, better equipped for large crowds searching out all that the Near West Side has to offer.

In addition to the outdoor stage on Bridge Ave. and W. 26 St., eight local venues opened their doors for musical acts: Joy Machines Bike Shop, Bon Bon Pastry & Cafe, Garage Bar, Touch Supper Club, Great Lakes Brewing Company, Market Avenue Wine Bar, Dragonfly Lounge, and Franklin Circle Christian Church.

Interactive art and games augmented the landscape, as patrons took out their aggressions on an Angry Birds/Skee Ball hybrid game, or channelled their inner Moonwalk on a discotech dance-floor made of ice blocks.

Adding to an already raucous Ohio City Saturday night, Brite Winter Fest collected friends and dispersed them throughout the neighborhood. It was an ongoing waltz from place to place, a happy, roving wintertime street party condensed within a few short blocks.

Perhaps it was the volunteer-driven nature of the event, the DIY fundraising from Kickstarter, that resulted in so many having a vested interest in Brite Winter. As a totally free event, one could pass through with no strings attached. The reveller enjoyed the luxury of total freedom, being able to choose his or her own path for the evening, tracking bands



on the schedule, and stopping in ABC the Tavern during the interim. Acquaintances would inevitably collide, hands would be shaken, ideas exchanged, meetups planned in the extremely near future. The festival was on.

In the end, the crowds dissipated and returned to homes near and far. Some walked home, others drove home and still others prepared to board planes the next morning. Fires were snuffed. Stages disassembled and trucked away. Ice dancefloors left to melt into the earth.

Having drifted out high above the waters of Lake Erie, the ghost of Brite Winter III – the woodsmoke and laughs and cocoa vapor and indie music – slowly faded away, a warm memory alive in Ohio City’s warm February night. ★



Ohio City Dialogue: Non-Profits Unite★

by ANNETTE IWAMOTO

Ohio City has an enormous asset in its 100 nonprofit and community organizations, with missions ranging from education and social service to healthcare and the arts. Combined, they employ 3,000 individuals and have a collective budget totalling several hundred million dollars. It is through the Ohio City Dialogue, which includes all of our community organizations, that we can create a healthier, more vibrant, and sustainable community through agglomeration and collaboration. The goal is to maximize the impact, efficiency, and innovations of the services provided, build a stronger community, and increase understanding and acceptance of the nonprofit sector both internally and externally.

This initiative was first the vision of Councilman Joe Cimperman, but has now become an initiative of Ohio City Inc. Over the past few years, a steering committee made up of several leaders in the community has helped to develop and shape this initiative. The nonprofit community in Ohio City has identified several opportunities for collaboration, including resource leveraging, developing a comprehensive housing framework for the neighborhood and promoting activities to increase community awareness.

Natalie Leek-Nelson, CEO and President of Providence House, leads the Resource Leveraging Workgroup, which has made significant progress over the past year. The workgroup has

engaged two local companies for the most in-demand products and services requested by Ohio City nonprofits. Sourcing Office, a local company that helps governments, businesses, and nonprofits obtain competitive rates for goods and services, is now coordinating group purchasing of office supplies, electricity, janitorial and sanitation supplies for enrolled Ohio City nonprofit organizations. OneLink, a local technology company with a nonprofit focus, has been selected to offer nonprofits in Ohio City quality information technology services and products at affordable group purchasing rates.

“We are thrilled with the quality and commitment of the vendors that we were able to engage to support Ohio City’s nonprofits,” said Natalie Leek-Nelson, “and we are confident that many more of our nonprofit neighbors will join us and benefit from the current and future group purchasing opportunities we have planned as word spreads about the tremendous value and convenience that participants are seeing.”

Reverend Allen Harris at Franklin Circle Christian Church leads the Housing Workgroup. This past year, the group collaborated with the Resident Vacant Housing Task Force to develop a comprehensive strategy for housing inventory in Ohio City. The group will evaluate and strategize based off this work to create a resource directory and increase neighborhood support. Other upcoming priorities include increasing accessibility to tenant and landlord resources as well as promoting Ohio

City housing opportunities to our nonprofit employees.

Anita Cook, Executive Director at West Side Catholic Center, has recently become the leader of the Community Awareness Workgroup. Last spring, this group facilitated a successful Ohio City Dialogue Service Day that involved over 500 volunteers in five different services sites in our community. Anita will lead this group in developing goals for the upcoming year that address shared concerns and will help build the sense of community in Ohio City.

Additionally, the Ohio City Dialogue Steering Committee has organized efforts to bring together the human service providers in the neighborhood. While often addressing similar concerns, these agencies were not always familiar with the services their neighbors provide. Initially a group of eight organizations facilitated by Cleveland Neighborhood Development Coalition came together to share best practices and address common concerns. They have decided to continue meeting on a monthly basis and invite other human service agencies in Ohio City to join them. These organizations have found value in coming together and look forward to strengthening the services provided in the neighborhood through these monthly conversations.

Mayor Frank Jackson will host the Ohio City Dialogue Annual Meeting on March 22nd in the City Hall Rotunda. At the meeting, attendees will have the opportunity to connect with other nonprofit and community leaders. There

What is the Ohio City Dialogue?

A collaborative effort including more than 100 community organizations in Ohio City that will:

- Leverage resources to help these organizations become more efficient and impactful.
- Maximize the community impact and community benefit of the work these organizations perform.
- Communicate the mission and work of these organizations to the community and visitors.



will also be updates from the resource leveraging, housing, and community awareness workgroups as well as a presentation from our newly formed human services dialogue group. The Ohio City Dialogue has gained a lot of momentum over the past year and will continue to promote collaboration within the nonprofit sector while strengthening our sense of community in Ohio City. ★

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Ohio City Parents Build Community★

(continued from page 1)

So when the Boyds became pregnant in 2006 with their first child, Sofia, the thought of moving out of the area never really crossed their minds. “We were committed to raising our kids here,” says Polanco-Boyd. “There’s a real sense of community.”

Until recently, it was virtually a fait accompli that Cleveland families with young kids would eventually move to the suburbs, drawn by the promise of better schools and family-friendly neighborhoods. Yet in near west neighborhoods like Ohio City, Tremont and Detroit Shoreway, that trend is now beginning to reverse itself. Parents like the Polanco-Boyd and others are putting down roots and discovering the kid-friendly secrets of city living while creating their own DIY, bootstrap parenting ethos.

“We have a lot of freedom and autonomy to create our own activities and the resources to carry out initiatives,” says Polanco-Boyd, citing the creation of a youth soccer league last summer at Fairview Park as one example of how Ohio City parents often come together to fulfill a need. “If you want to do something, people will support it.”

“The sense of community here is fantastic, and people really care about each other,” adds Mary Triece, who lives on Bridge Avenue with her husband and two kids, Dashell and Lily. “We are constantly interacting with people from different races and backgrounds, and that’s one of the reasons I love the neighborhood.”

Yet despite the redevelopment that’s occurred in Ohio City over the past two decades, raising a family here still

remains a daunting prospect for many middle-class parents. The joys of raising kids can easily turn into an isolated, lonely existence without a strong, supportive network to plug into. Although Ohio City has long attracted young people and empty nesters, it hasn’t always had a vocal, organized parent group.

That changed a few years ago with the creation of the Ohio City Babysitting Coop, a grassroots group formed by Martha Loughridge, Polanco-Boyd and others to swap sits and provide a social and community network for other families in the neighborhood.

“There was no sense of community among parents in the neighborhood, and I had no idea how many families there were,” says Loughridge, who lives on West 45th with her husband, Piet Van Lier, and their daughter Nora. She grew inspired to start the group after learning about a similar network created by parents in the 1990s. “Then our kids started playing together, and there was this feeling of, ‘Oh wow, I’m not alone.’”

“Then our kids started playing together, and there was this feeling of, ‘Oh wow, I’m not alone.’”

Yet for these Ohio City parents, raising kids in the city is not just about meeting other middle-class parents, but



Piet Van Lier, Martha Loughridge and their daughter Nora

also about defying stereotypes that the city isn’t kid-friendly.

“My kids are engaged and excited and never at a loss for activities,” says Molly Wimbiscus, who is raising two kids on Clinton Avenue with her husband, Joel. “My son has always been fascinated by transportation and buildings, and we can just walk across the bridge to downtown and there’s a whole new world. And it’s all free.”

Triece cites the near west side’s recreation options, including Fairview Park and Zone Recreation Center, as family-friendly draws. The Dallas, Texas native grew up in a suburban community that she describes as “toxic” and “superficial”; in college, she fell in love with Austin’s urban neighborhoods and hasn’t looked back. She revels in Ohio City’s diversity, authenticity and close proximity to everything that she loves to do.

Of course, not everything is perfect about raising kids on the near west side of Cleveland. Safety, schools, kid-friendly amenities and out-of-school activities remain top concerns. Yet the Ohio City Babysitting Coop, which now consists of more than 20 families and is growing, is working to address some of these challenges.

“The creation of quality school options such as Near West Intergenerational School and Campus International School is a great trend,” says Polanco-Boyd, who is sending Sofia to Birchwood School, an independent school with an international focus. Sofia’s teacher is from Argentina and they often speak Spanish together.

“There are always going to be things that are unfortunate about raising kids in the city, and safety is one of those things,” says Triece. “When I was six years old, I walked to school, but my kids don’t walk to school even though it’s two blocks from my house. However, when you do the cost-benefit analysis, the benefits outweigh the costs.”

Creating a sense of community among families is also one way to address fears about the overall safety of raising kids in the city, adds Wimbiscus. “Our friends are really interesting and have varied life experiences. They’re role models for our kids.”

Although Ohio City is rich with amenities, there are still a limited number of organized activities for kids. “For a lot of things, you still have to go out of the neighborhood,” says Loughridge, who cites the need for traffic-calming measures and more kid-friendly pocket parks. “We need T-ball leagues and other types of activities for kids.”

As Ohio City continues to evolve into a vibrant, multigenerational neighborhood, these families hope that more parents will decide to put down roots on the near west side. Although past marketing efforts have often been geared towards young professionals, a cohesive, organized effort could help to market the neighborhood to families.

“We’re only reaching a tiny percentage of parents now,” says Polanco-Boyd. “If more people knew Ohio City was family-friendly, they could plan to stay here long-term.”★



Norma Palanco-Boyd, Joe Boyd and their daughters at home in Ohio City





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Know Your Server: JOY VALENTINE, MANAGER OF MARKET AVENUE WINE BAR

Wine connoisseur? Perhaps. Lover of Ohio City? Absolutely.

Joy Valentine has managed the well-established Market Avenue Wine Bar for over 15 years. "Since August 1st, 1995," she recollects.

Like so many local business owners, professionals and entrepreneurs, Joy is also an Ohio City resident of 14 years.

Originally from Fairview Park, she attended Laurel School growing up. After deciding that her Jewelry and Metal Design major at Kent State University was going to be more of a hobby, rather than a career, Joy switched directions and focused on bartending school instead.

Before finding her calling in the wine industry, she impressively held eleven different jobs at once, which included delivering newspapers, venturing into the catering business, painting and working at Blossom Music Center.

Joy knew nothing about wine before starting her management position at Market Avenue Wine Bar; everything she knows, she has learned on the fly.

As I sat down with Joy for this interview on a Wednesday afternoon, the phone was ringing nonstop, visitors and business associates were coming and going, and the wine bar wasn't even open yet. "Welcome to my Monday," she joked, explaining that she works Wednesday through Sunday, every week.

What makes you come to work?

It's the clientele; we have such a great group of people coming here... and the wine, too. But it really is the people. There are regulars, newcomers, aficionados, restaurant workers, college students, people from every age group and all walks of life.

What sets Ohio City's Wine Bar apart from other establishments?

It's still a cozy, comfortable place. It seems like bars and restaurants tend to get bigger and bigger and louder and louder. This is a place to have conversation with somebody, relax and enjoy a nice glass of wine, not stare at 12 TVs.

What's your favorite wine?

My favorite wine is the next wine; I'm always looking for something new. Our menu adjusts with the season: every month or so, the assortment of the food and wine varies.

What do you love about Ohio City?

There's great dining and drinking. The community has evolved with the people, but the one thing that is permanent is the West Side Market. That's the core of the neighborhood, and that's the thing that keeps people coming back here. The old architecture is great, and I just love how the neighborhood flows.

How have you seen the neighborhood change?

Some people think that the neighborhood is so busy right now; it's not like this community sprang into being overnight and there was nothing here before... I remember Babylon A-Go-Go, where Flying Fig is now. I saw Smashing Pumpkins for free there in 1990. I think the Wine Bar has been an anchor in the area, and has survived the trends and changes of the neighborhood.

Besides wine, what other hobbies or interests do you have?

Property ownership and gardening. I love music, but unfortunately I'm not able to catch a lot of concerts because I work weekends. I also enjoy travelling: I've been to Russia, China and Spain through my time at Laurel. I've also travelled to Italy, England, Denmark, Norway and Mexico, and I've been to every state in the country except Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Hawaii. I'm planning a trip to Seattle's wine country in April, so I'll knock out Washington and Oregon then. My parent's 50th anniversary is next year and we're putting together a trip to Australia, New Zealand and possibly Japan as well.

Now, for a little 'this or that': nighttime or daytime?

Nighttime.

Cake or ice cream?

Yes.

Spring or fall?

Fall because I love Halloween and Day of the Dead, the crisp air and the crunchy leaves, fire and the way it smells in the fall... my birthday, I'm an October baby. I love the fact that I get to put my yard to rest for a hot minute and relax a little bit.

What should we be looking forward to at the Wine Bar?

Patio weather!

Anything else you want to say about Market Avenue Wine Bar?

I love it. If you haven't been, come. And if you have been here a few times, come again anyways.

Market Avenue Wine Bar is located at 2521 Market Avenue and is open Sunday through Friday from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Saturdays from 12:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.



For more information, call 216.696.WINE(9463) or visit www.marketavenuewinebar.com. Interview by Samantha Martin



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Dr. Brian Donley Aims to Continue Top-Notch Care at Lutheran Hospital.★

by ANNE GALLAGHER

As a foot and ankle expert who has consulted with professional sports teams and worked in clinical settings across the country, Dr. Brian Donley, MD, is used to working in a diverse array of communities. And now, as the president of Lutheran Hospital, he is putting his best effort into continuing to offer top-notch health care services to the Ohio City community.

"Our mission at Lutheran Hospital is to provide the highest quality care that meets the specific needs of the populations we serve," says Dr. Donley. "Toward this end, we work hard to identify what health care services are required and then we secure the best staff and most advanced equipment and technologies available to fulfill those needs."

"Patients receive these leading-edge treatments in an environment that is both intimate and friendly," he adds. "We are proud to be located in Ohio City, a vibrant, rejuvenated community, and we enjoy developing personal relationships with our patients and fellow employees, who often comment on our family-like atmosphere. It is no surprise that our patient satisfaction scores are high."

While Lutheran Hospital offers a full array of health care services within its 204-bed, acute-care facility, it is especially well known for: orthopaedics, spine care, behavioral medicine and wound care.

In his new role as hospital president, Dr. Donley is using the administrative skills he developed while serving as Senior Vice President of Surgical Operations at the hospital and as Cleveland Clinic's Vice Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Director of the Center for Foot and Ankle within the Orthopaedic and Rheumatologic Institute and chair of the Professional Conduct Committee.

Dr. Donley completed his undergraduate work at the University of Notre Dame. After graduating with distinction from the University of Michigan Medical School, he served internships in general surgery and orthopaedic surgery at the University of Michigan Health System and a fellowship in foot and ankle surgery at Campbell Clinic in Memphis.

He was named an American-British-Canadian Travelling Fellow in 2007 and one of "America's Best Doctors" every year since 2006.

In addition to his clinical responsibilities, Dr. Donley serves as a consultant for the Cleveland Browns, Cleve-



land Indians and Cleveland Cavaliers. An active researcher, he worked with an international team at Lutheran Hospital to develop a new total ankle replacement and was the first orthopaedic surgeon in the world to implant the Salto Talaris Ankle.

Dr. Donley teaches pre-medical and medical students, has authored numerous publications and has delivered more than 200 international and national presentations.

Regarding his new position as president of Lutheran, he says, "This is a tremendous opportunity to work with the hospital's dedicated team of caregivers. I look forward to continuing to build on the long and great tradition of Lutheran Hospital." ★



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Occupy Ohio City: How a Young Family has Settled in for the Long Haul★

by DANIEL SCHARF

When Greg and Tana Peckham began graduate school at Case Western Reserve University, neither of them anticipated moving across the river to Ohio City to raise a family together.

To begin with, they weren't a couple, and they didn't exactly come from similar backgrounds. Tana came to Cleveland after being born and raised in the heart of Philadelphia, choosing Case thinking that she would have the support of an aunt and uncle in Shaker Heights. Turns out her arrival coincided with their departure from the Cleveland area. So the Philly native found herself a stranger in a strange land without the comforts of family or the Liberty Bell. That wasn't much of a problem, though – she didn't plan on sticking around after getting her master's degree.

Greg's path to Ohio City didn't cover as many miles, but it wasn't any more likely. He grew up in Cleveland Heights, and prior to developing a relationship with Tana, his limited knowledge of Ohio City, like so many eastsiders, ended at West 25th. Yet in 1999, when he and Tana decided that it was time to move in together, they settled on renting on the Near West Side. Once they started living here, they were hooked. For Tana, Ohio City offered something a bit closer to the city liv-

on the door and check things out. The gentleman that answered the door was the seller, and he was prepping the place for an open house. He told them what he was asking, and after a quick little conference with each other, Greg and Tana said they'd take it on the spot. The apple, pear, and pawpaw trees in the yard made the decision a no-brainer.

And so it went for a few years: the couple worked on their house themselves, added a wood burning stove, updated the kitchen, and generally made it a home. But while they built their life together in Ohio City, their needs evolved. First one daughter, and then another, and suddenly their spacious one bathroom cottage started feeling a little less spacious. Add to that Tana's family visiting from Philadelphia on a regular basis and it was time to move on from the house, but leaving the neighborhood, or even the street, wasn't a happy thought. Greg had been the Executive Director of Cleveland Public Art, now LAND studio, a nonprofit on West 25th with a mission of improving Cleveland's neighborhoods through public art, sustainable building, and programming. Tana works in marketing for Nestle. They were both perfectly comfortable in their adopted community. Still, they needed more space, and with three women in the house another bathroom wouldn't hurt, either, so it was time to start looking, and thankfully they didn't have too look far.



The Peckham houses on John will be completed later this year

to love. Although they weren't able to take advantage of a CASH loan, that classic lifeline for Clevelanders doing rehab work, they stressed that their project never would have broken ground without CASH's help navigating the sometimes intimidating world of bank financing. With CASH's guidance, the Peckham's have been able to renovate a vacant property and enjoy the bones of a classic Ohio City home with an energy efficient interior that suits their needs and is as comfortable as any new construction. As an added bonus, all that money invested in their John Avenue home comes back in tax credits thanks to engaging Humanity's Loom, a "green rater" company, to work closely with their contractor, Larry Brichacek of Homeland Building & Design. Not to mention a yard that would make any urban gardener swoon. Everyone wins.

Now that their home project is underway, Greg and Tana are preparing to address another factor of urban family life – where to send their girls to school. Luckily, there have never been so many options. Greg and Tana are both products of public schools, and while many of their friends have been having good luck with the parochial options in the neighborhood, they didn't think that was for them. Fortunately, they are happy to have new options in the city, including the newly opened Near West Intergenerational School and Cleveland State University's Campus International School. Tana, whose father is from Shanghai, is particularly enticed by its' Mandarin Chinese language immersion, but Greg and Tana were also part of the parent group that brought the Intergenerational School to Ohio City, so it will be a tough decision. Of course, better too many choices than too few, and until then, the child care provided Merrick House in nearby Tremont suits the Peckham's needs well.

Greg and Tana wanted to make it work in Ohio City, and by their own efforts and the help of others they've been able to do so. A perfect home renovated to their specifications with a great yard, an array of options for their daughters' education, and a community filled with individuals just as committed to Ohio City as they are – it's all here. And with people like Greg and Tana putting down their roots here and raising a family in a neighborhood that they're proud of, it's hard to imagine Ohio City's growing appeal slowing down anytime soon. ★



The Peckham Family on the stoop of their future home

ing she left behind back east. For Greg, it was a whole new world as fresh as it was for his East Coast partner. Ohio City offered the benefit of new locale without having to leave Cleveland.

But all was not instantly well for newly married Greg and Tana. After happily renting for a year and a half, a roof collapse forced their hand. They needed a new place and they needed it that moment. Fresh out of grad school and not quite ready to settle down as homeowners, they started looking for another rental in the neighborhood. While searching on Woodbine Avenue Greg and Tana saw a sign advertising an upcoming open house. They weren't looking to buy, but figured they would knock

After searching Ohio City for a place to raise a family, they found not one, but two currently vacant homes that fit the bill, both a stone's throw away from where they are currently living. Purchasing a home is never easy, and starting with a vacant place stripped of its plumbing certainly doesn't simplify things. Yet part of what's great about Ohio City, and Cleveland in general, is that there's lots of support for people who have a little patience and are committed to staying. So with the help of Cleveland Action to Support Housing (CASH), Ohio City Inc., Councilman Joe Cimperman, and First Merit Bank, Greg and Tana are in the process of realizing their dream of staying in a neighborhood that they had come

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Ohio City Home Tour's Storied History Shows Off Community Spirit★

by MARGARET LATCH

It will soon be May and that must mean that it is time for the annual Ohio City Home Tour. We say that this year marks the 24th anniversary of this traditional Ohio City event, but is that true? Some reflections upon history tell the story of how this signature event has helped to catalyze and promote the redevelopment of our neighborhood.

Since the 1970s there have been home tours in Ohio City. Originally, the Ohio City House & Garden Tours were private enterprises conceived and conducted by Bruce Heddersen and Carol Lieblinger-Heddersen to demonstrate the progress made by the early urban pioneers in Ohio City. Just as with the modern tour, it was a means of showing off Ohio City to hundreds of visitors who came from out of town and from the suburbs to see living Cleveland history and the positive changes wrought in an inner-city neighborhood. In 1982, these Ohio City House & Garden Tours donated to the neighborhood the plaque on the side of Heck's Café, which tells the history of Ohio City.

Some years the Tour was held and some years it was not. Sometime in the mid-80's a group of Ohio City "movers and shakers" were meeting to plan another event and the conversation turned to resurrecting the home tour. Paula Slimak became the chair of the event and a new incarnation of the Ohio City Home Tour was off and running.

The Ohio City Home and Art Show officially became an annual event in 1989 (although there were Tours in 1987 and 1988) with all profits going to Ohio City Incorporated and its precursor organizations: Ohio City Redevelopment Association, Ohio City Development Corporation and Ohio City Near West Development Corporation.

Starting in 1989, the Tour took on features that will be familiar to tour-goers today. Chief among them are the third weekend in May date, Lolly the Trolley providing transportation, and both a garden and commercial stop. In addition to these now familiar attributes, there have also been art shows and antique fairs as a part of the Home Tour.

Frequently the Tour has featured an "in-progress" stop showing what it takes to bring back a long neglected or muddled structure. One such "in-progress" house is located at 3900 Bridge Avenue. In 1993, Doug and Judy Kohout showed off both finished and in-progress work on their home, and then in 1996 they displayed the completed work. This wonderful Victorian, now owned by Greg Walland and John Peterson, was again featured in 2009.

The commercial stops also reflect the continuing evolution of Ohio City. In 1990, two commercial structures were on the Tour. They were the old Firehouse #4 at 1455 W. 29th St., then an artist studio, and Ron Dewey's sculpture studio at 1460 W. 29th St. The sculpture studio was in itself symbolic of the rebirth of Ohio City, as it began life as a transformer station for the old Cleveland Railroad Company.

Both of these structures are again in the news as the old transformer station is set to become new gallery space for the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the old firehouse is now the home of North

Water Partners, Kloud9, and CoWork Cleveland, a virtual office space, and the future home of Rising Star Coffee Roasters. The Firehouse will again be featured during this year's Weekend in Ohio City. The changes in use of these two historic structures reflect the continuing transformation of Ohio City.

Just as the commercial spaces are changing to modern uses, the homes on the Tour have changed from being old and historic to also being newly constructed and new interpretations of historic homes. Today, the featured properties reflect the greater variety of styles and sizes now available in Ohio City.

In 1994, the Ohio City Home Tour added Evening in Ohio City to the Home Tour weekend and Weekend in Ohio City was born. When first conceived, one committee member complained that "no one will pay \$25 to see six houses!" Today, 19 years later, a ticket to Evening in Ohio City is a much sought after prize.

In time, the Tour has introduced thousands of people to Ohio City, including many who have decided that Ohio City is where they want to live. A fair number have packed up and moved here, becoming ingrained in the community. The original goal of showing off Ohio City and demonstrating commitment to the neighborhood continues to this day.

Over the years hundreds of people have helped plan and run the Ohio City Home Tour. Even at the risk of leaving people out and offending someone, a few of these people are: Hap Gray, Elaine Murphy, Linda Malik, Jim Malik, Anita Woodward, Jim Woodward, Roy Pogalis, Mark Lastition, Paula Slimak, Thom Geist, Christopher Leo, Greg Walland, John Peterson, Rae Ann Fowler, Anne Bloomberg, Keith Konajski, Doug Kohout, Judy Kohout, Bernie Thiel, Angela Hummel, Ed Small, Dave Dennis, Gus LoPresti, Jim Mahon, Alan Fodor, Lesa Hess, Bob Shores, Charles Davis, Cristine Hoffmann, Ben Hoffmann, Cris Filmer, Julie Kurtock, and many, many more. This year's committee includes Becky Astrop, Amanda Wilden, Luis Hernandez, Virginia Houston, Susan Muglich, Rick Advey, Andrew Blank, Troy Piper, James Barnes, and Margaret Latch.

This year Weekend in Ohio City is again the third weekend in May (May 19th and 20th), and again will feature Lolly the Trolley, garden and commercial stops, and perhaps an in-progress stop. An important tradition that will continue is the sponsorship and support of Lutheran Hospital, Dave's Market, and Great Lakes Brewing Company (and more to come!). Weekend in Ohio City would not be possible without the support of our wonderful and generous homeowners, volunteers, restaurants, and businesses that all work together to make the weekend successful and to make Ohio City the dynamic place it is today.

This spirit has been reflected in the Tour from the beginning and continues to this day, whether the Tour is in its 24th year or its 40th. ★



Makar condo featured on the Sunday Home Tour in 2010 (Photo credit Scott Madis)



Beautiful details of 3900 Bridge Avenue

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