

SOUTH SIDE VOICE

Presented by Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus and the City of Columbus

115 S. GIFT STREET
COLUMBUS, OH 43215
OCTOBER 2015 | ISSUE 20

**Southern
GATEWAY**
Rich in Heritage. Rich in Promise.

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF COLUMBUS**

RECLAIMING PARSONS AVENUE



Artist's rendering of the new Parsons Avenue Library, one of many exciting builds and redevelopments slated for the long-benighted street. City leaders and area merchants hope to preserve the character of the area and keep it affordable to the people who have long lived on the street and nearby. Rendering by Moody Nolan

The Parsons Avenue Merchants Association is working to revitalize the historic avenue – without transforming it into the next Short North

By Kamari Stevens

PARSONS IS CHANGING. First, it was the expansion of Nationwide Children's Hospital. Next it was CVS and Scrambler Marie's making their homes on the grave of the old Bobb Chevrolet lot. And, to cap it off, came the debut of Village Pointe, that also calls the old lot home, housing a restaurant (Crest Gastropub), a juice bar (Alchemy), and recently becoming the headquarters for a nonprofit (Local Matters). Each of these dominoes have been put in place and are now starting to fall and create waves throughout Parsons Avenue and on the South Side in general – waves sure to impact the area for years to come.

At least, that is what Bob Leighty, Executive Director of Parsons Avenue Merchants Association (PAMA) and Brian Higgins, Principal at Arch City Development, believes is happening.

"There are a number of things that are happening now or we are doing planning for... when you start adding it up, it's pretty significant," said Leighty.

"I think it's a great time to be involved with Parsons Avenue, there is a lot of positive momentum, a good community with good people and I think it's ripe for investment so I'm excited to see how things unfold in the next couple of years," said Higgins.

Both men point to Nationwide Children's Hospital influence, the expansion, as well as the collaborative reality initiative with Community Development for All People, Healthy Neighborhoods, Healthy Families, as being directly responsible with some of the recent developments.

"In the height of the recession, about a third of the homes in that area (East of Parsons and South of Livingston) were vacant and so we thought, 'Look, let's try to purchase these vacant homes and renovate them and make them available for sale. We'll be removing blight, we will not displace anyone, since the homes are vacant and we can try to uplift the community,'" said Higgins, who served on the board for Healthy Neighborhoods, Healthy Families.

"But while I was working on these housing (plans) for so long, it occurred to me that we weren't paying much attention to Parsons Avenue and I think that there's a symbiotic relationship between the housing side of the neighborhood and the commercial district. And for a lot of people who don't spend too much time on the South Side, the only sense you get of the neighborhood is when you drive down the avenue and it sort of defines the community for them," he added.

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COLUMBUS
MICHAEL B. COLEMAN, MAYOR

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FROM THE EDITOR



It's harvest season again, South Siders, and I think that Halloween is the perfect time of year to walk outside and sit down, drink in the cooling air, and reflect on the harvest you gathered this year.

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR HARVEST

Halloween is far and away my favorite holiday, and to my mind, the best part about this whole month. Bonfire? The word comes from pagan Irish priests chucking the bones of cattle into fires to appease cranky gods before winter – so “bone fire” became “bonfire,” an autumn staple. Also, the first Jack O’ Lanterns were turnips, not pumpkins, and named for a gentleman who wasn’t good enough for Heaven but had conned the devil so many times that he wasn’t allowed

into Hell, either, and so had to walk the earth forever with a candle in a turnip. What I’m saying is, I know my Halloween stuff, through and through. I like all the fuss. I never get real excited about Christmas lights and giant inflatable Scooby Doos with Santa Claus hats, but put up a rubber mummy that shakes and screams, and I’m on board. I like the smell of the air in the country this time of year. I like the idea of celebrating the harvest while, at the same time, acknowledging all the souls that have been harvested in the past.

It’s harvest season again, South Siders, and I think that Halloween is the perfect time of year to walk outside and sit down, drink in the cooling air, and reflect on the harvest you gathered this year. Sit and learn – look at your year with a sharp but reasonable eye. It will be winter soon, and I’m not trying to imply that a person can’t grow in the winter. (In fact, you’ll probably do a lot of growing...it’s called Thanksgiving and Christmas and you’ll probably grow a few pounds.) But for most people, a Columbus winter is about getting by, and many big plans are put off for spring – so look back on this last one. Did you plant an ambitious enough “garden”? Did you spend enough time preparing the soil beforehand? Did you leave everything enough space to grow, and yourself enough time to tend, or did you try and do too much, and end up with everything tangled and rangy?

This October, before you don your masks and go out to find the German Village’s ghosts or the Greenlawn Abbey’s dead magicians, set yourself down first and give yourself a few moments to reflect. Write your review down and hide it somewhere you’re sure to discover next spring. Hopefully, a few restful moments in October can help you set up a better next year.

I hope you all harvested plenty for yourselves. Good luck, South Side.

Regards,

David S. Lewis

SECOND ANNUAL SOUTH SIDE RED RIBBON WEEK KICK-OFF OCT. 24TH TO BUILD A DRUG FREE COMMUNITY

By Kathleen Gmeiner

Saturday, October 24, 2015 South Side residents will take a stand for a drug free community, observing Red Ribbon Week. Young people and adults will gather at the new Reeb Avenue Center parking lot, 280 Reeb

Avenue, at 2 PM. There will be a D.J., line dancing, face painting and poster making. The group, expected to number well into the hundreds, will walk to Barack Recreation Center at 580 E Woodrow. There will be live performances, dinner and parent awareness sessions. “Most South Siders – young and old – feel strongly about having a community that is free of drugs and the criminal activity that goes with it,” said George Hicks, member of the South Side Substance Abuse Solutions (SAS) Committee, which is sponsoring the event. The live performances, directed by Ms. Ware, with a theme of “Respect Yourself, Others and the Community,” will feature young people from Marion Franklin and

South High Schools. A free dinner will be provided to all who participate in the walk. “This is the time for young people to come out and make their voice heard so our youth and our whole community will have a great future,” said Donna Bates, also of the SAS Committee. ♦



The event is supported by ADAMH, Buckeye Health Plan, Maryhaven and Community Development for All People. For more information contact jastclair@columbus.gov

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We plan to make digital editions available as soon as possible. To sign up, send your email address to paper@southsidevoice.org

ONLINE EDITION

Read this issue via the web www.allthingsouth.org

The South Side Voice is dedicated to providing the South Side of Columbus with a high quality community newspaper, which recognizes and celebrates the achievements of community members; shares pertinent news and information of interest to the community; and promotes neighborhood cohesion, community engagement and good citizenship.

For purposes of this newspaper, the “South Side” refers to the area including the ten civic associations in the Columbus South Side Area Commission and the six civic associations in the Far South Columbus Area Commission. This may be modified in the future as this newspaper grows. This newspaper is currently managed by the Southern Gateway Project Team on behalf of the City of Columbus and the United Way of Central Ohio, which is the presenting organization.

While presented by the UWCO, this newspaper shall be made available at no charge to any South Side resident or person with a substantial interest in the South Side. The availability of this newspaper in electronic format on the All Things South website is considered adequate availability for all residents outside the Southern Gateway Planning Area (approximately 3,100 households in Reeb-Hosack/Steelon Village, Hungarian Village, South Merion Village, Stambaugh-Elwood and that portion of Innis Gardens Village situated between Parsons Avenue and Lockbourne Road). Residents within the planning area shall also be provided one printed copy mailed or delivered to each residence. If needed, additional copies may be purchased at a per copy fee in effect at that time.

The South Side Voice’s Editorial Committee, however, wishes to make hard copies available to as many residents, businesses and visitors as possible and will therefore consider expanding the distribution of hard copies by mail to additional households and through making copies available at area businesses and organizations. The use of story ideas and event listings submitted by the public and the number of copies to be printed, mailed or otherwise distributed is at the discretion of the Editorial Committee within the limits of available resources.



ILLUSTRATION OF
SALLY CRANDALL
AT LAST YEAR'S
EVENT BY LAURA
J. SANDERS

Storytellers of Central Ohio (SOCO) tour the haunted sites of German Village *By Kamari Stevens*

If you find yourself in German Village this October, be warned, “something evil’s lurking in the air.” No, it’s not the dancing zombies from Michael Jackson’s *Thriller*, it’s German Village’s Ghost Tour.

In conjunction with the German Village Society, the Storytellers of Central Ohio (SOCO) are hosting the German Village Ghost Tour on October 14. The two-hour tour, running from 7 P.M. to 9 P.M., will feature five locations with seven “Tellers” providing eerie tales throughout the evening. One of those Tellers is Sally Crandall, a dedicated member of SOCO for 15 years. Crandall said this is the third year the SOCO has been involved with the Ghost Tour, but that this will be the first year with SOCO handling the entire tour.

“Usually the tour consisted of general German Village historical details,” Crandall said. “This [year] will be more ghostly and spooky.”

“The difference [from previous years] is, in addition to the stops at haunted houses that have a ghostly past, we are adding some ghost stories not connected to any sites, one

at Frank Fetch Park and the German Village Society Meeting House,” she added.

Crandall said the tour, which costs \$20, is being targeted toward pre-teens and older and spans approximately one and half miles.

“The first stop is the old Beck Street School [Beck Elementary School], it is now the home of the Columbus Gifted Acade-

more. According to Crandall, her story is about a woman who recently purchased the home located on the same corner who began hearing strange noises, reoccurring every week in the dead of the night, that may have connections to the lifelong bachelorette with a taste for fine china, who lived in the house in the 1920s.

“When a story is being told, it’s like the storyteller sends a thread out to the listeners and they are connected by that thread.”

my in the Schumacher Place neighborhood, and that used to be the site of the [Franklin] County Poorhouse,” she said.

“The school was built after the Poorhouse was torn down, but there is a building or two still left on that property that has spooky ties.”

Patrons of the tour will find Crandall sharing a tale on the corner of Jaegar and Syc-

reach committee of SOCO that spends summers reading and organizing workshops in reading, writing and listening skills for at-risk youth at places like the Dowd Center and the former South Side Settlement House.

Overall, Crandall said she hopes that people leave the ghost tour with more than just chills.

“I think storytelling activates your imagination and lets you see that story come to life in your head, [and] no two people will ever have the same image in their head,” she said. “When a story is being told, because it’s so individual to the listener, it’s like the storyteller sends a thread out to the listeners and they are connected by that thread.”

“I think it’s a powerful, ancient medium,” noted Crandall. ♦

Crandall said she hopes that people who attend the ghost tour go home saying they had a “spooky time.”

“It is that time, around Halloween, that you want to get scared, a bit,” she said.

Crandall noted that proceeds from the ghost tour will be going to the Columbus Story Adventures (CSA) which is an out-

For more information on SOCO’s German Village Ghost Tour, visit www.socotales.org

////////////////////// **OCTOBER COMMUNITY EVENTS** ////////////////////////



OCTOBER 25

GANTHERS PLACE ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT!

2-4pm at Ganthers Place

Please join us with your little ones for donuts, face painting, candy and FUN! It will be taking place in the alley behind Ganthers Place Park for All People and Ganthers Greens 'N Things Park. Wear your costumes, if you have them.

OCTOBER 1 AND NOVEMBER 5

GREATER COLUMBUS GROWING COALITION

6-7:30pm at Hope Lutheran Church, 820 Lilly Ave.

Are you interested in connecting with your community and celebrating the beautification of it? We ask you to join us at Hope Lutheran Church with a vegetable dish or a dessert, while we gather to discuss ideas on growing more community gardens and programs dedicated to maintaining a beautiful community.

OCTOBER 1

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

6:30-8:30pm at Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave.

This bereavement group is for all who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Members learn about the grief process, coping skills and each will have the opportunity to share about their loss. The group will be led by an experienced bereavement minister and limited to 10. This program is free, but registration is required. Meetings will take place for eight consecutive Thursday's. **Contact CCCoP at 614-512-3731 or corpuschristicenterofpeace@gmail.com for more info or to register**

OCTOBER 3, 10, 17, 24 AND 31

GERMAN VILLAGE WALKING CLUB

8-9am at Schiller Park, 1069 Jaeger St.

Get your Saturdays off to great start with the German Village Walking Club. Enjoy a brisk 3 to 5 mile from Schiller Park through German Village and downtown. All walking paces are encouraged and supported. **For more information, email Larry Smith at larrywalksfast@gmail.com**

OCTOBER 3

CENTERING PRAYERS

10:30-12pm at Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E Stewart Ave.

Attendees gather to support each other in the practice of Centering Prayers -- a simple, contemplative way of being with God. Each attendee will spend 20 minutes in prayer and time discussing the subject with the assistance of articles, books and DVDs. No prior experience is necessary.

OCTOBER 4 AND NOVEMBER 1

MINISTRIES 4 MOVEMENT MARCH

3-4pm at Family Missionary Baptist Church, 996 Oakwood Ave.

All are welcome to the awareness march, followed by a short program focusing on a monthly theme. Learn how to change the conditions and improve the quality of life in your communities.

OCTOBER 7 AND NOVEMBER 4

PAMA MEETING

12-1:30pm at Scrambler Marie's, 567 E. Livingston Ave.

All are welcome to the Parsons Avenue Merchants Association monthly meeting. The meeting will be focusing on the future development of Parsons. Improvements are being planned, so come learn about them and get involved! Meeting will be held in separate meeting room at Scrambler Marie's.

OCTOBER 7 AND NOVEMBER 4

VASSOR VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

7-8:30pm at Barack Recreation Center, 580 Woodrow Ave.

Everyone is welcome to attend! Get involved in YOUR civic association to create the future of YOUR neighborhood.

OCTOBER 7, 14, 23, AND NOVEMBER 4

SOUTH SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE CENTER TEAM

1:30-2:30pm at Barack Recreation Center, 580 E. Woodrow Ave.

Come be a part of the South Side Neighborhood Pride Center Team. We meet at 1:30pm for the first three Wednesdays of each month. The fourth Friday of each month we meet at 3pm, no meeting on the third Wednesday this month. (There are not any meetings on the fifth week of the month.)

OCTOBER 7 AND NOVEMBER 4

MERION VILLAGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

7-8:30pm at Merion Village Information Center, 1330 S. Fourth St.

Come hear about exciting new neighborhood developments in 2015, give your input on all aspects of your neighborhood and, most importantly, get to know your neighbors! **Visit www.merionvillage.org for more information**

OCTOBER 8

WOMEN TO WOMEN LISTENING CIRCLE

11:30-1:30pm at Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave.

This event welcomes women of all ages and walks of life. Women to Women is a safe, non-judgmental and confidential place. This is simply a place to step away, breathe and share with other women. There are no requirements or pre-registration necessary, please come as you are.

Contact CCCoP at (614) 512-3731 or corpuschristicenterofpeace@gmail.com for more info or to register

OCTOBER 10

FRESH PRODUCE GIVEAWAY

8:30-10:30am at Columbus Castings (Parking Lot), 2211 Parsons Ave.

Columbus Castings and South Side Community Ministries have partnered to provide FREE fresh produce and everyone is eligible. There is no ID required, but you must bring your own bags, boxes, carts, etc. The event will last until all produce is gone. Don't miss out! **For more information about our food pantry visit sscmfoodpantry.org**

OCTOBER 12

SOUTH CENTRAL COMMONS BLOCK WATCH

6:30-7:30pm at Tatoheads, 1297 Parsons Ave.

All are welcome to partake in this informative meeting of safety-minded residents living in the South Central Commons area.

OCTOBER 14

GERMAN VILLAGE GHOST TOUR

7-9pm at Columbus Gifted Academy (formerly Beck Elementary), 347 E. Beck St. Storytellers of Central Ohio (SOCO) will present a spooky walking tour of German Village. The tour visits ghostly houses in the village where SOCO members will tell the strange and haunting histories of the former residents.

OCTOBER 15

SOUTH SIDE AREA HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

6-7:30pm at CD4AP, 946 Parsons Ave. A Standing Committee Meeting led by Columbus Public Health to discuss health related issues and share information. All residents are encouraged to attend. Free parking will be available just North of the building. Join the mailing list by contacting Shalini Madireddy at (614) 645-2679 or SMMadireddy@columbus.gov

OCTOBER 24

RED RIBBON WEEK

2pm - 7pm at Reeb Avenue Center, 280 Reeb Avenue Join us in support of Red Ribbon Week for dinner, parent awareness sessions and live performances. The event will begin at Reeb Avenue Center and will be followed by a walk to the Barack Recreation Center at 580 E. Woodrow Avenue. There will also be line dancing, face painting and more at this annual event. Come help build a Drug Free community!

OCTOBER 24

CSSAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

9-10am at Tee Jaye's Country Place, Parsons Ave. Officers and committee members residing on the Columbus South Side Area Commission (CSSAC) meet to discuss pressing issues concerning the area and create agenda for future meetings.

OCTOBER 25

FOOD TRUCK AND CART HOP

12-6pm at Tatohead's, 1297 Parsons Ave. Stop by for lunch or an early dinner and enjoy the various foods provided by a dazzling array of area food trucks or carts! Sample foods from far away countries or just down the street.

OCTOBER 27

COLUMBUS SOUTH SIDE AREA COMMISSION (CSSAC) MEETING

6:30-8:00pm at Reeb Avenue Center, 280 Reeb Ave. The Commission makes recommendations to the city regarding zoning, events and changes in the south side area. It's comprised of representatives from all 10 civic associations. Contact Jo Anne St. Clair, City Liaison, to verify meeting times at (614) 645-8097

OCTOBER 28

BLOCK WATCH COMMUNITY MEETING FOR THE SOUTH SIDE

6:30-8pm at Barack Recreation Center, 580 E. Woodrow Ave. A monthly meeting of all south side block watch representatives and the community at large. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend. Different guest speakers are invited each month to share a wide range of information. Contact Jo Anne St. Clair, City Liaison, to verify meeting times at (614) 645-8097

NOVEMBER 5

STAY (EDUCATION) MEETING

6:30-7:30pm at German Village Meeting Haus, 240 E. Kossuth St. Join us for our STAY Meeting this month. Childcare will be complimentary, courtesy of The Village Community Church, but RSVP will be necessary.

CIVIC ASSOCIATION LEADERS & MEETING TIMES

Schumacher Place

Kathy Green, President kathrynfgreen@yahoo.com Meetings held third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Planks Cafe on Parsons www.schumacherplace.org

Hungarian Village

Paula Copeland, President hvsociety@yahoo.com 614-222-2145, Meetings held second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., Hungarian Reform Church , 365 Woodrow Ave.

Reeb-Hosack/ Steelton Village

Linda Henry, Co-chair lshenry4@gmail.com Lillie Banner, Co-chair Meetings held second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at Resurrection Missionary Baptist Church, 280 Hosack, Social/food 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Merion Village

Tony Roell, President anthonyroell@gmail.com Meetings held first Wednesday of the month, 7:15-8:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Church, 225 E. Gates. For more information visit www.merionvillage.org

Ganthers Place

Allen Carrel, President ganthersplace@gmail.com Meetings held the fourth Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at 566 Reinhard Ave. 43206

Southern Orchards

Richard Shaffer, President southernorchards.1982@gmail.com, Meetings held first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m., Stowe Mission, 888 Parson Ave.

SouthSide C.A.N.

Debera Diggs, President 614-598-2237. Meetings held second Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at South High School, 1160 Ann St.

Vassor Village

Kelly Coate, President remaxpckellycoate@aol.com Meetings held first Wednesday of each month at Barack Recreation Center 580 Woodrow Ave., Block Watch at 6:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. www.vassorvillage.webs.com

Innis Gardens Village

Brenda Cummings, President bndbhealthy@yahoo.com Meetings held the third Thursday of the month at 1402 Smith Rd. Come join us for our local Block Watch and Civic Association meetings. The Block Watch meeting runs from 6-6:45pm, with the Civic Association meeting following afterward. Come get involved!

Deshler Park

Rachelle Robinson, President deshlerparkcivic@gmail.com 614-233-1922 Meetings held the third Thursday of the month, 6-7pm at Alvis House, 1755 Alum Creek Dr. Everyone is welcome to join us at our Civic Association meeting. Attend and hear about the great things taking place in our neighborhood!

Stambaugh-Elwood

For more information, contact Tim Brown, 614-446-9090

Edgewood Civic Association

Ted Welch, President twelch@edgewoodcivicorg.com (614) 946-2247 Meetings held second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., Corpus Christi Parish Office, 1111 E Stewart Ave.

Thurman Square

Deb Roberts, President - 228-1688/mzdoodah@gmail.com Meetings held the third Tuesday at the Parsons Avenue Library from 6:30 -8:00 p.m.

BE FEATURED ON THIS PAGE

To have your meeting or event listed, send us a short description, date, time, location and web link (if any).

paper@southsidevoice.org

Continued from page one

That led to the creation of PARC, Parsons Avenue Revitalization Corporation, a non-profit that works to enhance its namesake, and the adult bookstore that was located at 677 Parsons is their first project. According to Higgins, they are already looking at other properties to redevelop.

“Hopefully, the kinds of businesses we hope to attract are ones that have price points that make them accessible to everybody and have a positive effect on the neighborhood,” Higgins said. Arch City Development is currently working on the property and hoping to eventually renovate the apartments housed on top of the property, as well as find a suitable tenant that can bring something valuable to community, Higgins added.

“We don’t mind owning property, but our goal isn’t to be long-term property holders on the avenue. We want to spark development

“There are a number of us who’ve been working (to improve the South Side) and in particular trying to promote development that won’t be pushing people out, but will help lift people up and better support themselves.”

where we can and be catalytic,” he said. While that project is just getting underway, Leighty noted the many prospects on the horizon.

“I think you’ve seen in Merion Village and Schumacher Place the redevelopment of houses going on, and you see some specific things starting to happen on Parsons... near Reeb Hosack, the whole Southern Gateway program has been really working hard to help folks in that area,” said Leighty.

“We are very excited about the new library coming, as well as the coffee house, Common Grounds, that will be across the street – that should be tremendous,” he added. Both the library and the coffee shop will be on Parsons Avenue.

Leighty and Higgins are familiar with some of the negative perceptions held by those who do not spend time in the South Side, but have faith in the people and the community and believe potential investors will find the area viable.

“South Columbus has had challenges, as much as any area in the past; there has been a lot of good stuff,” said Leighty. “There are a lot of families that have been here for four or five generations, so we have some core assets to build on.”

“If you go into the Short North now, it’s amazing the amount of growth that has oc-

curred there in the last 10 years or so,” said Higgins, adding, “Rents that are off the hook – \$30 per square foot, [while] Parsons’ rents go from \$10- to \$14 per square foot – so, if you’re trying to open a business, unless you’re really well capitalized, or really specialize in something that has to be in the Short North, you’re going to look for a place that maybe has some affordability, that you see some investment happening, and that is appealing.”

The idea of gentrification has been a bit of a hot-button issue, especially with the example of the drastic changes in the Short North occurring so visibly and so near to home, but Leighty emphasized the importance of maintaining the community’s essence.

“There are a number of us who’ve been working (to improve the South Side) and in particular trying to promote development that won’t be pushing people out, but

will help lift people up and better support themselves,” he said. “This is a very diverse area and that’s one of the things I love about it and we want to continue.”

Leighty, further stated that he is interested in providing employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for the residents of the South Side, while also enticing others to be a part of the momentum taking place.

“We want to make sure we are generating jobs for people who live in the neighborhood, as well as drawing in new investments,” Leighty said.

“My particular interest, and other folks also, is to try to boost entrepreneurship down here, local and sustainable businesses,” he added.

Regardless, both Leighty and Higgins see revitalized Parsons and South Side going forward.

“Five years from now, I think you’ll see a significant investment in the existing building stock, and maybe even a couple of new buildings, depending on how things go,” said Higgins.

“It’s a bit of tipping point, where people are like ‘Hey, there’s some good stuff happening on Parsons,’ and South Columbus in general, and that is what is making the difference,” added Leighty. ♦

SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS
CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN GREATER
PARSONS AVENUE CORRIDOR

List courtesy Bob Leighty, Executive Director,
Parsons Avenue Merchants Association and
longtime advocate of the South Side

City of Columbus, Public Service Department: \$5m project planned to make left turns safer, replace signals, repave and restripe the Avenue.

Village Point: Mixed-use development, 25K square foot fitness center, 10K square feet of retail, including Crest Gastropub, Alchemy Café + Juice Bar, South Columbus Visitor Center, Strut the Salon, Gather, and Local Matters. City is assisting with façade improvements. 150-160 apartments planned.

New Parsons Avenue Branch of Columbus Metropolitan Library: State of the art learning center and meeting facilities construction underway, 19K square foot development across two City blocks. Parsons Avenue Merchant Association, funded by City NCR dollars, assisted with site location

Redevelopment of Barrett Middle School: Renovation and rebuilding of historic Barrett school and six-acre site for 126 housing units, including 22 single family homes.

Reeb Avenue Center: \$12.5m renovation and expansion of Reeb Elementary School into 60K+ square foot, multiuse, public-private community center with emphasis on education.

John Maloney Family Health and Wellness Center: The \$8.6m new center opened in November 2013. At 21,500 square feet, the center is a significant presence in the southern gateway area of Parsons Avenue. Health services are provided for adults, infants and children, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, the Moms2Be program and other services from the Ohio State University, mental health & substance abuse services and more.

Southern Gateway Homes: 40 new rental homes have been built by NRP and Community Development for All People. These tax-credit homes will eventually be owner occupied.

South Side Renaissance Homes: This creative project is funded by South Columbus business leaders working with Community Development for All People and Healthy Homes. It is a privately funded non-profit initiative to build new homes and provide exterior repair grants to area homeowners.

Senior Citizen Housing: 56 units of independent living senior housing have been developed by NRP and Community Development for All People on land at 1846 S Washington Avenue, just east of new Reeb Avenue Community Center. Project cost was estimated to be \$10.3m. Tax credits have been approved by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

Settlement House site: Project Blueprint is developing a park and pilot storm water runoff research site.

City incentives for expansions at Columbus Steel Castings, Virschvogel Renovation to Barack Recreation Center, New Pool

Southern Gateway Community Report: Results of \$300,000 in consultant fees to plan for economic revitalization of Southern Gateway neighborhoods, this document contains lots of data on economic development and economic development strategies Feasibility Study for Food Incubator in South Columbus

South Columbus Food Plan by Local Matters, leveraged funding of \$5K by Fitness Loft, initiative of Parsons Avenue Merchants Association, NCR program

The South Side Voice: 20 issues and counting!

Plant Pride on Parsons: Funding of neighborhood cleanups and maintenance of 126 hand-painted flower planters, services jointly from Keep Columbus Beautiful and Parsons Avenue Merchants Association and South Side Neighborhood Pride Center

Community Crime Patrol funding

New City Police Crime Lab and new City Fire Station on Greenlawn

Improvements to Scioto Audubon Metro Park (collaboration among City of Columbus, Metro Parks, and Audubon)

South Side Plan Update



City Council President, Ohio Senator Rob Portman, and many other dignitaries were on hand for the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Reeb Avenue Center on Friday, September 26. An enormous crowd of local residents and those interested in the South Side were on hand for

the event. The Reeb Avenue Center, dubbed the "Hub of Hope" for the area, houses many individual services and businesses for the area, from a cafe with affordable food and a free "community meal" every Tuesday night, to job placement services, and much, much more.

CREATING LIFE-LONG LEARNERS Teaching accountability to develop motivated students



By Ted Otting

There is a scourge plaguing the current generation. The problem is one that studies have shown has increased with the rise of technology, reality television, and a society where everyone expects to get what they want immediately. It trickles into the classroom and creates an environment where students don't understand that work equals achievement. The issue? Entitlement.

Individuals should be judged on their own actions, but in my decade teaching I've seen an unfortunate rise in students who experience a disconnect between their actions and the outcomes. Entitlement is the idea that people believe they are deserving of something (a nice car, the new iPhone, an A on their test) without actually understanding the work or dedication it takes to get or achieve those things. In schools this is seen when students don't do their homework, or don't understand a topic. Rather than ask a question or speak to the teacher they continue on until it's time for report cards and then blame the teacher for not doing their job when the students have had six to eight weeks to ask for help. They feel by merely being present it is enough. Fortunately parents often understand this, as well, as they see similar things at home: expecting an allowance

or privileges without completing chores, or an unwillingness to be accountable for personal actions. Here though lies the solution: Accountability. With my students I try to use accountability as the basis for all lessons: "Why do we need to do math?" "Because one day you'll have a bank account and if you want to buy something you need to know if you have enough for your bills and whatever it is you want." "Why do we need to do English?" "Because in order to fill that bank account you need a job and to get a job you need to speak correctly and know how to write well and communicate effectively." The teaching of accountability most often comes from equating the work students do and the way people behave in a workplace. Their job as a student requires that they be on time, do their homework, study, and treat others with respect. Teachers are like bosses. You don't always like your boss, but you have

to respect them and get along to get the work done. These things don't come overnight. Even at the elementary level I talk to students about having a job and taking responsibility. The strange thing, though, is that it works. It usually takes a while, but even the most stubborn students come around when they see the outcome of their work. Accountability is key to helping students learn to self-motivate and get over the expectation that they "deserve" whatever it is they want. In the end it creates what all teachers (and most employers) want: a life-long learner who values education and understands that hard work and commitment pays off. ♦

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RAKING LEAVES AND ROCK GARDENS HELP HEAL BODY AND MIND

These fun fall projects can promote serenity of soul and also provide a great workout for the milder months

By Mandy Fowler

Rock gardens, also known as Alpine Gardens, originated with the Chinese and the Japanese and their cultivation of alpine plants. Rock gardens use a layout of rocks, stones and plants to form a garden area. Rock gardens can raise the property value and curb appeal of a home with little or even no expense; additionally, they are very easy to maintain.

Within the rock gardens are small microclimates in the cracks, niches and pockets of the rocks. The temperatures are slightly different in these areas. With a little forethought, this can extend the growing season of some plants by planting frost-tender plants on the south side of your house near large flat rocks, which absorb the warm energy of the sun and can provide shelter for the plants, creating a microclimate area.

Rock gardens are ideal for growing herbs, as well, as they blend into their surroundings and do not stick out.

TYPES OF ROCK/ALPINE GARDENS

JAPANESE ZEN GARDENS –

These feature almost no plants and minimal rocks; the majority is composed of sand and trimmed grass.

VICTORIAN GARDENS – beds are made of lines of rocks and small plants are encouraged to grow in the cracks between the rocks.

DRY SOIL/LOTS OF SUN – drought tolerant plants (Mediterranean plants, succulents like Sedum, which have beautiful blooms)

DRY SOIL/SHADE – usually found under large trees, cooler areas (cool weather plants that will wilt in the sun)

MOIST SOIL/LOTS OF SUN – great for a water garden or anything that will not mind the moist soil; swampy plants like Skunk Cabbage

MOIST SOIL/LOTS OF SHADE – perfect for hastas, azaleas dogwood and maple plants.

EXAMPLES OF PLANTS THAT THRIVE IN ROCK/ALPINE GARDENS

ANNUALS - dwarf marigolds, poppies, and blanket types

PERENNIALS - daisies, yarrow, lambs ear, columbine, ice plant, plantain, alliums, tulips and crocus

ORNAMENTAL GRASS - fountain grass, azalea, cypress, creeping juniper

SUCCULENTS- century plant, sedum, houseleek, jade plant, and various cacti species

TIPS FOR BUILDING YOUR OWN ALPINE/ROCK GARDENS

PARTIALLY BURY ROCKS; allow surface to slant back slightly (creating a shadow)

USE WELL DRAINING SOIL before planting

USE MULCH to retain heat or small finely ground pebbles or sand

TIP: COMMON AUTUMN CHORES CAN BE GREAT EXERCISE:

Raking leaves for a half – hour can burn 50 calories, apple picking for an hour can burn up to 300 calories, and a day in the pumpkin patch can burn 750 calories. Pour yourself some cider, put some good music on, and get out in the backyard. Make chores fun by inviting friends to do a Leaf Raking Crawl and go from house to house as a group, raking and bagging the leaves. This is a great way to make friends with your neighbors, and get some exercise. Be sure to reward the group with food and drink at the end! These are also activities that kids can get on board with, so be sure to have them along – just be ready to re-rake the biggest, most enticing piles of leaves!

FALL YARD WASTE

ONE MAN'S TRASH, ANOTHER'S COMPOST

Yard waste makes up a large percentage of landfill waste; instead of throwing it away, turn it into the gardeners' black gold: compost. Simply procure any large plastic barrel or container with a lid (note: if the lid is airtight, holes should be drilled in the top of the container to vent the gases that are a natural byproduct of decomposition.) Compost is rich in nutrients that will benefit your garden next year, after it breaks down. Dirt is made of bits of sand, rock and clay; soil is a living community of organisms that feed your plants.

CONTAINER GARDEN PLANTS FOR FALL

In this space we've covered how to properly grow container gardens as an easy way to get fresh produce in a limited amount of space – but, just because fall is approaching fast, don't think you are out of time to grow delicious and healthy plants. Many kinds of garden food can be grown even better in the fall than in the spring, as the cooler days and less-direct sunlight cause these plants to thrive!

ARUGULA

hearty, easy to grow, expensive at the store; use in the place of lettuce in a fall salad

GARLIC

easy to grow, can survive in a layer of frost, can be grown in a small container with one clove

KALE

extremely healthy with tons of protein, and will survive even in early winter

SPINACH

easy to grow, healthy and delicious, thrives in cool weather

ASPARAGUS

takes a few seasons to sprout, but is easily grown in containers and will pay off

BRUSSELS SPROUT

just two plants will easily provide for several individuals

TURNIPS

easy to grow and can be used in place of potatoes, and the greens are delicious, too!

CARROTS

can survive the frost, easily grown in the fall climates