

SOUTH SIDE VOICE

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

115 S. GIFT STREET
COLUMBUS, OH 43215
JULY 2015 | ISSUE 17

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

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF COLUMBUS**



FRESH PRODUCE & FELLOWSHIP

"The goal of the market is to foster a sense of community by offering a weekly meeting place for neighbors to come have coffee, a bite to eat, [purchase] fresh produce and listen to world-class music."

set up shop from 9 a.m. to noon, providing customers with a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, flavorful jams and syrups and some local charm. The Merion Village Association, as well as Tatoheads Food Truck, have also been a fixture at the weekly gatherings. According to the Merion Village Farmers Market's web site, "[t]he goal of the market is to foster a sense of community by offering a weekly meeting place for neighbors to come have coffee, a bite to eat, [purchase] fresh produce and listen to world-class music." ♦

For more information on Merion Village Farmers Market, visit their web site at www.merionvillagefarmersmarket.com

COLUMBUS
PUBLIC
HEALTH'S
FARMERS
MARKET 2015

DATES: July 30, August 6, August 13

TIME: 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

WHERE: 240 Parsons Ave.

DETAILS: Local Ohio farmers will be present each day, providing fresh fruits and vegetables. Coupons for free fresh produce will be available for anyone utilizing the WIC program. Food stamps will be accepted, also. For more information, call (614) 645-3111.



LOCAL FARMERS MARKET PLACES PREMIUM ON COMMUNITY

Story and
Photos by
Kamari
Stevens

Usually asphalt and agriculture don't mix, but Merion Village Farmers Market is an exception. The local market is planted in the parking lot of T.Y. Furniture, across the street from the furniture store. T.Y. Furniture owner, Tarik Yousef, along with Wes Miller, came up with

the idea for a local farmers' market and established it the summer of 2014. This year's iteration began June 6 and will run until September 26. Every Saturday, perfect weather or otherwise, vendors such as That's My Farmer, Moffit's Maple Farm, Rock Dove Farms, Heirloom Produce, and Bite The Cookie Bar

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AND MUCH MORE!

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COLUMBUS
MICHAEL B. COLEMAN, MAYOR

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**MANDY'S
HEALTH
CORNER**

By Mandy Fowler



Strawberries

HISTORY

- A member of the rose family and actually classified as an herb by most botanists. The red fleshy part that we eat is actually part of the flower, and is not a berry at all.
- The origin of the strawberry name itself is unclear; some individuals believe the name came from the berries being grown in a bed of straw. When the strawberries were harvested, they were strung on a blade of straw and sold as a "straw of berries."
- Archeologists have found strawberry seeds dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Iron age time periods, suggesting that early civilizations consumed strawberries (most likely the small, bland, wild version).
- Native Americans referred to the fruit as a heart seed berry, or "wutta himneash."
- The Yellow Emperor of China (who ruled most of the 26th century B.C.) had his court physicians make a weak tea out of the plants leaves, believing it was a powerful detoxing agent and reduced the effects of aging.
- Early Roman writers Pliny and Ovid mention strawberries in their works, but not the cultivation of the fruit. The Roman writer Virgil warned children of serpents when picking strawberries, because of the low growing fruit's nearness to serpents.
- In the 12th century, Saint Hildegard of Germany declared that the fruit was not fit for human consumption because it grew close to toads and snakes.
- In the 14th century, the first reports of cultivated strawberries were recorded in France in 1368. King Charles V planted 1,200 strawberry plants in the Louvre gardens. The Duke and Dutchess of Burgundy reported thousands of strawberries were planted at their estate in Dijon.
- During the 15th century, strawberries were used for their medicinal purposes. At this time botanists were working on naming different species.
- Native Americans introduced strawberries to the Europeans.
- The 18th century introduced the hybrid strawberry plant that we know today. Americans and Chileans crossed the precursor to all cultivated strawberries grown today. California is the main producer of strawberries today. Since the 20th century, California has produced over 25,000 acres of commercially grown strawberries. That equates to a whopping 1 billion pounds a year, 80 percent of which are sold in the U.S.

HEALTH BENEFITS

- The average berry weight is 25 grams. Strawberries:
- Are low in calories, at 32 calories per 100 grams.
- Contain high amounts of disease fighting chemicals, helping the body in the fight against cancers, aging, and inflammation due to neurological disease.
- Are high in Vitamin C (100g=58.5mg, or 98-percent of the recommended daily intake), making strawberries a great antioxidant.
- Are rich in B Complex: B6, niacin, riboflavin and folic acid, helping the body process carbohydrates, proteins and fats.
- Contain Vitamin A, Vitamin E, potassium, manganese, fluorine, copper, iron and iodine.
- Strawberries are a great snack food in between meals. Add strawberries to cereals, yogurt and ice cream. Blended with ice and yogurt, they become a healthy and filling smoothie; try substituting a strawberry smoothie for breakfast several times a week. And, so long as used sparingly, strawberries also make one heck of a great pie!

WARNING: Strawberries may cause an allergic reaction, if you suspect that you are allergic; avoid.

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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/Steelton 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.

FROM THE EDITOR



“FOR NOW, THESE HOT DAYS, IS THE MAD BLOOD STIRRING.”

– *Romeo and Juliet, Act III, Scene 1*

It’s fitting, what with all the fine work of the Actors’ Theatre of Columbus in our Schiller Park, to open with a line from Shakespeare, don’t you think?

I honestly wish I had no occasion to use that one, though. I choose it because June was hot, and mad, evil blood stirred enough to spill others’ across our country.

I don’t need to rehash the heart-shattering events that our country experienced, not the police brutality, not the embarrassing attitudes and opinions of our elected officials. I don’t need to report on the culminating evil delivered on our brothers and sisters in South Carolina. You’re familiar with all of that; the cries of their families’ mourning are probably still fresh in your ears. The distance doesn’t matter – good men and women recoil in horror and disgust when this happens to anyone, anywhere. They need to recoil; they must be shocked, revolted...it’s one of the few true birthrights of our species, and when it doesn’t happen, there’s a problem.

I believe it’s better to skip the “that could’ve been your mother” or “that could have been your brother” kind of talk, though.

Because that was your mother. That was your brother. They need to become our family members; now that they are killed, we need to adopt them because if their deaths are only something to imagine happening to our loved ones, we don’t possess enough of their tragedy. It can’t hurt as badly as it needs to. It can’t tear our hearts apart, it can’t put our face against the cold wall or the refrigerator door and grip you with sorrow, and it won’t force us to get our collective home in order.

And that’s what we need to do now. Let’s bury these, our dead, in a garden fertile, so they can help to raise up our seeds, growing a better future.

Hatred will always be around and we will never be able to insulate ourselves against the kind of devil that enters a place of worship with a gun and the will to do murder.

But we need to do the best job we can of teaching our children how to love – how to love their brothers and sisters with all their hearts and all their minds. How to release hatred and fear of them that don’t dress like you, or eat the same food, or have names that are hard to pronounce – what has that kind of thinking ever got anybody? Not a damn thing.

No, we will teach our kids and our cousins to just try to look at things a different way. To gain more ground in ridding our country of these disgusting tendencies. To call them what they are, and to throw them out with the rest of our spiritual trash.

To give someone the benefit of the doubt – to try harder to see them as your blood relation, instead of assuming they are some kind of threat or enemy.

We can do better. We live in a diverse neighborhood, and one with plenty of problems, and more than a few of us need to correct our attitudes toward each other – that’s not limited to any race, religion, language, or any other characteristic. I see suspicious eyes everywhere I go. Open your hearts, or at least your eyes. And I beg you, teach your children to be better than we are; in the process, maybe we’ll set an example for our own selves to follow.

As always, I wish you all good luck this month. Look out for each other as best you can.

Regards,

David S. Lewis

FROM THE COMMUNITY



After SSV Senior Writer, Kamari Stevens, wrote an editorial about his difficulty finding a good barbershop, one of our readers responded with an invitation:

Hey, I'm a barber and I was just recently reading your editorial. I have been employed at Gates style center for 15 years. The address is 1156 Thurman Ave. Though not relatively close, it is close to South High School. And I think we have a nice atmosphere. But it is an old school shop. No videogames (sorry). But we look forward to seeing you. My name is Alberto, and the owner's name is Earnest Gates.

Alberto

Dear 'Berto,

Thanks so much for reaching out. As you know, I took you up on this offer and had a great experience. Along with the haircut, it was a joy to be in an atmosphere that loose and fun. I plan on returning soon. And just in case you were wondering, my Mama approved the haircut.

Sincerely,
Kamari

JULY COMMUNITY EVENTS



JULY 10

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER COMMUNITY FORUM

**9:30-1pm at South High School,
1160 Ann St.**

Mayor Michael B. Coleman welcomes you to attend My Brother's Keeper Community Forum for African American male youth, where they will discuss issues being faced within the community. Food will be provided at this free event.

Please RSVP at www.columbus.gov/MBK2015

JULY 5 AND AUGUST 2

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.

JULY 9

WOMEN TO WOMEN LISTENING CIRCLE

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

This event welcome 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

JULY 11 AND AUGUST 8

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 www.sscmfoodpantry.org

JULY 8 AND AUGUST 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 a separate meeting room at Scrambler Marie's.

JULY 1, 8, 15, 24 AND AUGUST 5

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 Wednesday of each month we meet at 3pm. (There are no meetings on the fifth Wednesday of each month.)

JULY 1 AND AUGUST 4

MERION VILLAGE BLOCK WATCH & CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

**Block Watch Meeting starts at 6:30pm,
Merion Village Civic Association starts
at 7:15pm at St. Pauls Church, 225 E. Gates**

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

JULY 1 AND AUGUST 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.

JULY 2 AND AUGUST 6

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.

JULY 4

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.

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

JULY 25**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.

JULY 16**KROGER GROCERY STORE TOUR**

6-8pm at Kroger, 1441 Parsons Ave.

Kroger and Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters collaborate to teach you how to shop for healthy and delicious foods on a tight budget. With completion of the entire two-hour tour, attendees receive free groceries. Space is limited. This tour occurs every third Thursday of each month.

JULY 16**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

JULY 26**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 dishes from just down the street.

JULY 28**COLUMBUS SOUTH SIDE AREA COMMISSION (CSSAC) MEETING**

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

AUGUST 6**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.

We have shifted our quarterly meeting schedule to be May-August-November-February. We think this schedule will create fewer conflicts with busy seasons and holidays so that more people can be a part of our meetings.

**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@south
sidevoice.org**

CIVIC ASSOCIATION LEADERS & MEETING TIMES

Schumacher Place

Kathy Green, President
kathryngreen@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. Come hear about exciting neighborhood developments coming in 2015, give your input on all aspects of your neighborhood and get to know your neighbors. 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.

Vassor Village

Kelly Coate, President
remaxpkellycoate@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 fourth 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!

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.

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.

Stambaugh-Elwood

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

SOUTHERN GATEWAY SUBSTANCE ABUSE SOLUTIONS COMMITTEE BEGINS ITS SECOND YEAR

By Anne Stewart, Committee Member



The Columbus South Side Area Commission civic associations participated in community cleanups. After all the work was completed, participants gathered once again at Barack Recreation Center where the Substance Abuse Solutions Committee hosted a community cookout.

For over a year a small group of community members have gathered to discuss the effects of substance abuse in our community. The Southern Gateway "Substance Abuse Solutions Committee" was born of data received from the Southern Gateway Survey. One of the greatest concerns listed on the survey was safety. Many respondents found substance abuse to be a reason for their safety concerns. Judy Czarnecki, LISW, was able to obtain the help of Family Counselor Candace Hartzler to lead a series of six weekly discussions about how substance abuse has

affected the safety of our everyday life on the South Side. After much discussion, the group decided it wanted to become proactive by publishing and distributing treatment and support information flyers as well as hosting events for the community.

The first event was held last October in conjunction with National Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week, Sponsored by the National Family Partnership was developed 30 years ago by a small group of parents, committed to drug prevention education. The event began at the John Maloney center

with music and poster making, followed by a festive march to Barack Recreation Center where all participants were able to share a meal and enjoy "Choices" an original play produced by George Hicks. This past April, as part of Columbus Earth Day celebrations, the Columbus South Side Area Commission civic associations participated in community cleanups. After all the work was completed, participants gathered once again at Barack Recreation Center where the Substance Abuse Solutions Committee hosted a community cookout. The commit-

tee met with the South Side Healthy Families & Babies ATOD group for their June meeting. The two groups plan to collaborate on several events and initiatives. ♦

Please look for upcoming events sponsored by your community's Substance Abuse Solutions Committee. If you would like to become involved please contact Jo Anne St. Clair at 645-5220, or jastclair@columbus.gov.



**FUN
IN THE
SUN**

Sliding in the Deep End

New Lincoln Park Swimming Pool Opens *By Kamari Stevens*

Lincoln Park Swimming Pool has been refreshed. Almost a year after breaking ground and approximately \$4 million in demolition and building costs, the rejuvenated Lincoln Park Swimming Pool had a soft opening on June 22.

The Dedication and Grand Reopening Ceremony, scheduled for June 25, will be rescheduled to a later date, due to inclement weather. Gone are the antiquated facilities from de-

acades past. Featured now are two large, colorful slides, to go along with the “zero-depth” pool, which is made to resemble a beach-like atmosphere by allowing patrons to walk into the pool gradually, compared to the ladder found on traditional pools. Other additions include a “tot area” for young swimmers, brand new bathhouses for men and women, as well as lockers for patrons belongings. Vending machines are also available.

Columbus’ Recreation and Parks’ website lists the facility’s daily hours as from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Prior to the renovations, John Gloyd, Aquatics Administrator for Columbus Recreation and Parks, discussed that the improvements were “overdue” and the goal was to match the quality of swimming parks located in more suburban areas. By the reaction from the swimmers at the pool, that goal has been surpassed. ♦

To experience all the new features, a Leisure Card is required (and can be purchased for \$1 @ Barack Recreation Center; Family Passes are also available).

Corpus Christi to Host FREE Summer Camp

Kids aged 6 - 12 from the 43206 and -207 invited and encouraged to come out

By SSV Staff

We will be offering a free week of summer-camp on the field next to Corpus Christi Center of Peace July 27-31 specifically for kids ages 6-12 from the 43206-43207 zip codes.

The camp will offer various craft programs, and kids will build a bird feeder and a race car. They will also learn to make their own ice cream! In addition, games including monkey soccer and water games will be enjoyed in the sun. The kids will also receive a visit from Olympic Gold Medal Winner Butch Reynolds, as well as the Columbus Division of Fire.

This Free Summer Camp is possible thanks to grants from The Catholic Foundation and the Shalom Fund of the Do-

Schiller in the Summer

Schiller Park and Recreation Center Provide Activities and Entertainment

By Kamari Stevens

With schools being closed for the summer, Schiller Park and Recreation Center has become a haven for children (and adults, too) of all ages.

With the purchase of a \$1.00 one-year membership, known as a “Leisure Card,” members are allowed to take advantage of programs such as Beginning Archery (for the kids) or Indoor Cycling (for the adults). And Schiller doesn’t just provide a physical outlet for patrons: they also offer artistic pathways, as well, such as Piano Lessons (14 and older) and “Pee Wee Picasso,” an art class for Pre-K aged children.

Schiller Recreation Center operates Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 7:45 P.M. But even when the Rec Center is closed, the Park can be a lot of fun. As soon as the Rec Center closes down shop, The Actors’ Theatre of Columbus take up residence at the Amphitheatre Stage, Thursday through Sunday, at 8 P.M. The Actors Theatre recently wrapped up their first production of the season, Captain Blood, and will be performing the Shakespearean classic, Richard III, by the time of this publication. While they do offer reserved seating (one for \$20, two for \$35) if you bring a chair, or are willing to plop out a blanket or two, you can enjoy the show for free. The theatre provides a snack stand, as well.

Whether it’s learning how to shoot a bow and arrow or experiencing live theatre, Schiller Park remains an enticing destination for all walks of life on the South Side. ♦

minican Sisters of Peace.

Only fifty campers may participate, with priority given to those who live in the 43206 & 43207 zip codes, but at the time this paper was going to print, there were still plenty of spots left.

Volunteers are also needed to make lunches and do other behind-the-scenes work. Any volunteers who work directly with the campers must have completed the “Protecting Our Children” program and a full background check with fingerprinting. ♦

Potential volunteers are requested to contact Corpus Christi Center of Peace prior to the camp by calling (614) 512-3731; for more information or to register campers, please call the same number or e-mail corpuschristicenterofpeace@gmail.com



BANK TO WAIVE CLOSING COSTS FOR HOMEBUYERS ON THE SOUTH SIDE

Program designed
to increase home
ownership • *By SSV Staff*

Huntington Bank is waiving closing costs for homebuyers in economically depressed areas across town, and the South Side is one of them.

Closing costs, the fees associated with things like processing costs and appraisal, are often an additional frustration to homebuyers, as the fees are usually required paid at the end of the home's sale. Closing costs are just an additional burden and obstacle in the important (but challenging) process of buying a home. The bank expects that the program will save homebuyers between \$1,500 and \$2,500.

While this could certainly help residents currently living on the South Side get a better shot at owning their own home, with private home ownership in the area already low and declining, it's also likely to stimulate purchases from outside the neighborhood, making the area more attractive to those looking for the right place for their first home.

"I think that's great, if it helps average people get into a home while the interest rates are good," said Drew Smith, who just finished remodeling a home in Merion Village. Smith, who hopes to one day find his way to the South Side as a resident, plans to sell his property, and thinks the program would be good for homebuyers in any of the Southern Gateway neighborhoods that qualify.

"As long as it doesn't take anything from the homeowner or the seller, and the bank is just absorbing the cost itself, that's great," he said. "It will open up the window for a lot of people who might not have bought otherwise. Closing costs can be pretty high." ♦

To determine whether the neighborhood in which you wish to buy qualifies for the fee waiver, ask a reputable real estate agent or home appraiser, or contact a Huntington representative.



Improving your child's attitude toward school by sharing personal experiences *By Ted Otting*

Summer break is in full swing and school is the last thing students are thinking about. Summer helps everyone recharge their batteries and gives time to be free from responsibilities of nightly homework, tests, and quizzes. This time is important, but it is also a chance to set a foundation for the next year that can improve your child's confidence and performance.

Communication with your student and school staff are some of the most critical steps you can take to improve grades, increase student 'buy-in' to school in general, and create a better school experience. I myself was an 'average' student (As, Bs, and Cs, mostly) but I dreaded any call or letter sent from school even though I had nothing to worry about. Thinking back,

the root of my anxiety – and what most students feel – is the unknown of what a teacher might say or report, whether good or bad. The solution is communication and building trust with your student by sharing your own experiences in school and being present as they start a new year.

The first step is bringing up the upcoming school year now. It's tough to break the 'spell of summer', but questions like, "What are you looking forward to this year at school?" or "Do you have anything you'd like to do this year (sports, clubs, etc.)?" are good places to start. Again, looking back, my response would probably have been "Uh, not really," but try to recall experiences you enjoyed to help prompt answers. Whether it was a teacher who really impacted you or an

activity that made a difference, hearing about your own good memories of school helps calm students' fears and helps them to look at school more positively.

Next is prepping students for the classroom, specifically, their teachers. Ask if they know their upcoming teachers. Do they like them? Have they heard anything from friends? Rumors about difficult teachers can sour a student's mindset before they even enter the room. Have them share their feelings and then try to help them understand that they get to develop the relationship they have with their teachers, not the rumors. Any stories you can share personally about a challenging teacher can help students see they're not alone, and can assist in conversations later.

Finally, schools begin sending letters out about 'back-to-school nights' in late July. These are crucial to see the school environment and get an understanding of what your student will experience. Remember to mark it on your calendar and while there, make a point of meeting the principal, if possible, and the front desk staff. These individuals are the nerve center of the school and are important resources to have. Whether it's just calling in an absence or you forgot to sign a permission slip, a personal connection goes a long way.

Children and adults alike fear the unknown. If your child has had a challenging time in school already this fear is even greater, but it's never too late to overcome it. Conversations about your own experiences are key and attending school welcome events will give you & your child shared perspective that will set a great foundation for success at the beginning of a new year. ♦

Ted Otting is a teacher, tutor, and South Side resident.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY COMING TO SOUTH SIDE

NEW BUILDS, HOME REPAIRS PLANNED *By SSV Staff*

KEEP YOUR EYES OUT FOR THE DARE TO CARE T-SHIRTS OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VOLUNTEERS, AS THEY WILL SOON BE IN THE SOUTH SIDE WITH SLEEVES ROLLED UP.

The group is currently involved in new builds, home repairs, "Rock the Block" events, and "A Brush With Kindness" painting projects in our area. While they've doubtless been stalled

by the incessant rains of June, the projects are ambitious and many. Counting all of these programs, the organization will be working on approximately 40 homes, and doing everything from new builds, repairs, beautification, and even trash pick-up and more.

Volunteers from the area are always welcome to help, and have stepped up and helped with many Habitat projects. Neighbors are encouraged to participate. ♦

To learn more about what Habitat is doing for us, visit their website, www.habitatmidohio.org, and keep checking out pages for details. As the crews work on and finish projects, feel free to send pictures of their efforts to the South Side Voice at paper@southsidevoice.org, or text them to (614) 301-3960