

# THIS NEWSPAPER NAME TO COME

360 SOUTH 3RD STREET, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215 | MARCH 2014, | VOL. 1, NO. 2



*“Once you read the stats, it’s very obvious to see the connection between the death rates and access to healthy foods.”*

## South Columbus Food Plan Coming to Fruition

By Kathleen Radcliff

**A** Southern Gateway community activist, two businessmen and a community collaborator have teamed up to explore possible ways to help South Side residents gain better access to healthy, affordable

food via a food plan for the area.

Given the high death rates in the Southern Gateway neighborhoods as compared to overall Franklin County, it is clear that many local residents face health challenges. While these have many causes, it is probable that the difficulty families face in maintaining a diet of

healthy foods is high on the list.

The Parsons Avenue Merchants Association (PAMA) is proposing that the food plan be developed by Local Matters, a nonprofit that has done similar planning work in Weinland Park and Franklinton.

“I’m involved with local food entrepreneurs and have long been a fan of Local Matters,” said PAMA Executive Director Bob Leighty, adding that he has been wanting to get the food system-focused organization involved in the neighborhood in a bigger way.

The plan will be overseen by PAMA and the Columbus South Side Area Commission (CSSAC). Healthy Eating and Living (HEAL) is also expected to be a key part of the puzzle.

The cost for the plan is \$5,000 in fees to Local Matters with in-kind support from PAMA and CSSAC.

Now, enter Jeff and Jeff, as in Jeff May Sr. and Jeff May Jr.

May Sr. came from West Virginia to Columbus to attend OSU. He started selling cars at the former Bobb Chevrolet and continued for 30 years.

He bought the dealership, sold the land to Nationwide Children’s Hospital, but held onto the southwest corner of Parsons Av-

enue, where he developed the CVS and became a Scrambler Marie’s franchisee.

“I got to know Jeff and his wife Gabby,” said Leighty. As the two men discussed the topic of healthy food Leighty recalled, “Jeff saw the stats and said, ‘Let us sponsor this study.’”

According to the Southern Gateway neighborhood profile, there are 6,895 people living in the Southern Gateway area, which consists of Merion Village South, Hungarian Village, Reeb-Hosack/Steelton Village, Vassor Village, Innis Gardens Village West and Stambaugh-Elwood where there are high levels of poverty and deaths from chronic disease.

“Once you read the stats, it’s very obvious to see the connection between the death rates and access to healthy foods,” May Sr. said.

The Mays are the developers of Village Pointe which is under construction at Parsons and Livingston. The second and third floors of Village Pointe’s three-story structure will consist of the Fitness Loft, a 25,000 square-foot gym and two large classrooms where cooking demonstrations, tips on healthy food preparation and shopping, and various fitness classes can be taught.

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The first floor will house approximately 12,000 square-feet of retail space. A 1,100 square-foot rooftop garden will cap the structure scheduled to open mid-summer. May Jr. 21, who will be graduating from the OSU Fisher College of Business this semester is a perfect match to run the Fitness Loft.

It is also a homecoming of sorts for the younger May. "I was a volunteer at Nationwide Children's Hospital during my four years of high school," he said. "Every Sunday, I took my dog in to visit the kids for a couple of hours. We developed a pretty good relationship."

The Mays and Leighty are anticipating information from the plan. Leighty thinks it will reveal some interesting data, and the possibility of some new services.

"There is a lack of cohesiveness with community gardens and community kitchens," he said, suggesting there could be opportunities for new services at facilities such as the Maloney Health Center kitchen.

"We can make some assumptions that healthy food will help," he said. "But, I don't know that."

He also noted there could also be some surprises citing Weinland Park as an example.

"The thought was to teach people how to start community gardens in Weinland Park. However, once planners began their work in the field, they discovered residents were more interested in learning how to tend their own garden plots. Two hundred families were helped in starting their own gardens," Leighty said. "Every neighborhood is different, but we all eat."◆

## SOUTHERN GATEWAY NEIGHBORHOODS HEALTH DATA

According to the Southern Gateway neighborhood profile, there are 6,895 people living in the Southern Gateway area, which consists of portions of Merion Village South, Hungarian Village, Reeb-Hosack/Steelton Village, Vassor Village, Innis Gardens Village West and Stambaugh-Elwood. Forty-five percent are between the ages of 25 - 54, 18% are age 55+ and 35% are ages birth to age 17. The area is predominately white (70%) with 24% black. Overall, almost 60% of the housing is occupied by renters and about 40% of the population has lived elsewhere within the past year (indicating a high level of transiency). Families make up 56% of the households and 31% are persons living alone. There are high levels of poverty and deaths from chronic diseases.

### COMPARISON OF AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATES (ADR) FROM 2005 - 2010 *Franklin County VS. Southern Gateway*

CAUSE OF DEATH	FRANKLIN COUNTY AVG. ADR*	SOUTHERN GATEWAY AVG. ADR*
Malignant Neoplasm	185	311
Diseases of the Heart	187	329
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	51	117
Cerebrovascular Disease	44	51
Accidents	38	98
Diabetes Mellitus	24	71
Influenza and Pneumonia	19	32
<b>All</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>1410</b>

\* = Age-adjusted Death Rate (ADR) gives the number of deaths per 100,000 population. This is a way to standardize death rates to minimize the effects of differences in age compositions when comparing the death rates for different populations (e.g., Franklin County vs. Southern Gateway.) Southern Gateway is defined as Census Tracts 58.20, 60.00, and 61.00. Please note that rates based on small numbers do not meet the requirement for a minimum degree of accuracy by the National Center for Health Statistics, but the numbers are still a revealing snapshot of the health of residents of the Southern Gateway neighborhoods.

Source: Ohio Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics. Analyzed by Columbus Public Health, Office of Epidemiology.

## Proposed South Columbus Food Plan in a Nutshell

To gather data about Southern Gateway residents and healthy foods, PAMA is proposing that a food plan be developed for the South Columbus area, as defined by the boundaries of the Columbus South Side Area Commission, with references as appropriate to adjacent neighborhoods and food resources.

### LOCAL MATTERS WOULD PERFORM COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO DETERMINE:

- South Columbus residents' access to healthy food
- Local sources of healthy food production
- The need for education about eating and preparing healthy food

### DELIVERABLES IN THE PLAN WILL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO:

- South Columbus food resources/assets
- South Columbus Food Resource Map
- Gaps in the current South Columbus food system will be identified, and strategies will be defined to close those gaps
- Funding resources will be identified to, in a sustainable way, pay for healthy food education for South Columbus residents, especially residents of the Southern Gateway study area. Education programs will include, but not be limited to: Food Matters, Cooking Matters, Growing Matters, and Wellness Matters
- Marketing and outreach strategies will be developed to determine how local residents could use a new South Market, Retail Food Co-Op, Local Food Restaurant, Greenhouse, and Entrepreneurship Education Center, and to determine how these facilities should work with possible partner organizations and community stakeholders

### COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Parsons Avenue Merchants Association
- Village Pointe Fitness Loft
- Nationwide Children's Hospital
- Reeb Community Center tenants (in particular South Side Learning & Development Center and the Boys & Girls Club)
- Community Development for All People and the HEAL program

## NEIGHBORHOOD ROUND UP

### 175% OF THE 2013 - 2014 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES (USED FOR HEAP)

SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD	INCOME LIMIT YEARLY	THREE MONTH INCOME
1-Person	\$20,107.50	\$5,026.88
2-Person	\$27,142.50	\$6,785.63
3-Person	\$34,177.50	\$8,544.38
4-Person	\$41,212.50	\$10,303.13
5-Person	\$48,247.50	\$12,061.88
6-Person	\$55,285.50	\$13,820.63

### 150% OF THE 2013 - 2014 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES (USED FOR PIPP PLUS)

SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD	INCOME LIMIT YEARLY	THREE MONTH INCOME
1-Person	\$17,235	\$4,308.75
2-Person	\$23,265	\$5,618.25
3-Person	\$29,295	\$7,323.75
4-Person	\$35,325	\$8,813.25
5-Person	\$41,355	\$10,338.75
6-Person	\$47,385	\$11,846.25

See more at: <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/puco/index.cfm/consumer-information/consumer-topics/federal-poverty-guidelines/#175>

## HELP with UTILITY COSTS



After a long and particularly frigid winter, many Columbus families are struggling to pay unseasonably high utility costs for heating their homes. Fortunately, the federally funded HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) is aiming to help low-income Ohioans with the cost of heating bills.

Applicants are eligible for the one-time HEAP payment if the household's income is at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines (See chart above).

Households at 150 percent of the poverty level are eligible for the PIPP (Percentage of Income Payment Plan) Plus program, which allows customers to make payments based on income. When a PIPP Plus household pays its monthly payment on-time and in-full, some of the household's old debt and the rest of that month's bill become a credit on the household's utility account.

Those eligible for PIPP Plus will pay \$10 or 6 percent of their gross monthly household income to the utility company

each month. If the utility provides both gas and electric services, the payment will be \$10 or 10 percent.

Any household whose utility company is regulated by the PUCO (Public Utilities Commission of Ohio), is eligible for these programs, though some providers may have a varying version of PIPP Plus.

For more information or to sign up, call 800-282-0880, write to PO Box 1240, Columbus, Ohio 43266 or visit the Ohio Development Services Agency website. ♦

### SCHUMACHER BLUES

The South Side has been getting its fair share of the blues since a group of "all stars" started drawing fans of the "jam" style to the Hey Hey Bar on East Whittier Street.

Bill Lewandowski and his Blues All Stars have been hosting an "open jam" from 7 to 11 p.m. every Wednesday at the Hey Hey for a few months, and the performances have gained in popularity.

Taco Wednesdays at the Hey Hey happen at the same time, and the combination has been a winner.

The Hey Hey Bar & Grill is located at 361 E. Whittier St.

### SEE A POTHOLE?

Call 311 or visit [311.columbus.gov](http://311.columbus.gov) to report any that need filled.

### SOUTH SIDE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB LAUNCHES

The newly formed South site of the Columbus Boys and Girls Club launched Feb. 7 with a grand opening at its 1702 Parsons Ave. location.

President and CEO of the United Way of Central Ohio Janet E. Jackson was the day's keynote speaker, and the event officially kicked off the Boys and Girls Club's new South Side venture.

With very little advertising, the program drew eight kids on its first day, and hopes to continue to increase attendance. The Club is planning cosmetic upgrades to the location as well, and aims to be more visually pleasing to kids.

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS AT THE MALONEY CENTER

Starting March 6, the John R. Maloney Health Center at 1905 Parsons Ave. will be bringing in a cardiologist. The Maloney Center will be the first federally qualified health center (health centers that receive federal grants to provide healthcare to the uninsured) to host a cardiologist.

According to manager Ed Roberts, doctor visits typically cost patients only about \$30. The center is willing to work with people who need help paying the fee. The center is also hosting United Way tax service days from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. each Saturday until April 12 for those who need assistance with filing taxes.

There are also plans for Local Matters to host cooking classes in the Center's kitchen beginning March 18 at 5:30 p.m. The classes are free and open to local residents.

### A CHANGE IN WASTE COLLECTION

The city's residential recycling program, RecyColumbus, is expanding to select condominium, town home and apartment communities. To be eligible, you must have a 90-or-300 gallon trash container serviced by the City of Columbus. Previously, only residents in single-family homes or in a building with four units or less were eligible for this service.

Recycling and yard waste will also now be collected on the same day. While your day of collection will not change, the week of collection will. Visit [311.columbus.gov/colorday](http://311.columbus.gov/colorday) to view the schedule and to sign up for free reminders.

According to South Side Neighborhood Liaison Jo Anne St. Clair, residents overwhelmingly wanted to have their recycling and yard waste collected on the same day.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR BACKYARD?

**The Southern Gateway Community Engagement Committee is currently selecting the name for the paper to be announced in the April issue.**

### Innis Gardens Village to Form Business Collaborative and Get Sidewalks

In the coming months, Innis Gardens will be working to form a business association along Lockbourne Road. The association will aim to unite and support business owners similar to the Parsons Avenue organization.

Look for new sidewalks on Smith Road as Innis Gardens recently received a grant from Columbus for this purpose. President Brenda Cummings says, "We've been trying to get sidewalks for years."

### Stambaugh-Elwood Celebrates YouthBuild Home Completion

The Stambaugh-Elwood community is proud to see the completion of a new home being built in the community by YouthBuild Columbus.

The home is located at 560 Elwood Ave.

This project was built by program youths as part of an effort to obtain their GED and construction training certificate.

### SouthSide CAN Announces New Website and Facebook Page

The SouthSide CAN has a newly built website at [www.southsidecan.org](http://www.southsidecan.org) and a Facebook page. For more information, contact SouthSide CAN President Debera Diggs at 614-598-0237.

They will also welcome new Police Liaison, Officer Scott Peck, at the end of March and Police Liaison Barry Kirby will be thanked for his service to the 11th Precinct.

### Schumacher Place Sees Changes Ahead

February's membership meeting topic was a discussion of zoning and development changes on the Schumacher Place borders of Livingston and Parsons. Changes are in progress and are scheduled for the coming two years.

These include the new building south of the intersection, Village Pointe, planned growth by Nationwide Children's Hospital, the planned library move, the formation of the Parsons Avenue Redevelopment Corporation, Parson's Avenue traffic changes and the effects of the I-70/I-71 highway reconstruction.

The March membership meeting will focus on crime in the neighborhood and surrounding area.

### Vassor Village Announces Meeting Change, Candidates and Asbestos Removal

The Vassor Village meetings have been changed to the first Wednesday of the month. They will be held at Barack Recreational Center at 6:30 p.m. There will be a 30-minute block watch meeting and then the regular meeting at 7 p.m.

The following positions have been filled by nominees as of March 5th, and all candidates are running uncontested:

President – Kelly Coate  
 Vice President – Beau Bayliss  
 Treasurer – Anne Nance  
 Secretary – Ryan Lauber  
 Member at Large – Jim Griffin

Asbestos will be removed from the Tony's Tax building on Parsons Avenue and the building is scheduled for demolition.

### Merion Village

The Merion Village Association's big upcoming tasks will be the Barrett Elementary Redevelopment and new Parsons Avenue Library. The association anticipates having special meetings for each of the projects once they are ready to be presented.

Meetings will also be held regarding the Gateways program so that final decisions can be made on the implementation of the first information kiosk.

Information about the meetings will be distributed to members via email, and will be posted on Facebook and the calendar.

CIVIC ASSOCIATION LEADERS & MEETING TIMES

### Schumacher Place

Kathy Green, *President*  
**Kathryngreen@yahoo.com**  
 Meetings held 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at Planks Cafe on Parsons

### Merion Village

Tony Roell, *President*  
**anthonyroell@gmail.com**  
 Meetings held 1st Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Merion Village Association  
 1300 S. Fourth St.

### Hungarian Village

Paula Copeland, *President*  
**hvsociety@yahoo.com**  
 614-222-2145  
 Meetings held 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.  
 Hungarian Reform Church  
 365 Woodrow Ave.  
 Find us on Facebook

### Innis Gardens Village

Brenda Cummings, *President*  
**bndbhealthy@yahoo.com**  
 Meetings held 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Block Watch 6 - 6:30 p.m.  
 Barack Recreation Center  
 580 Woodrow Ave.

### Southern Orchards Southside United Neighbors

Richard Shaffer, *President*  
**southernorchards.1982@gmail.com**  
 Meetings held 1st Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.  
 Stowe Mission  
 888 Parson Ave.

### Deshler Park

Earl Littlefield, *President*  
**earlittfield@sbcglobal.net**  
 614-329-5294  
 Meetings held 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 p.m.  
 Alvis House  
 1755 Alum Creek Dr.

### Reeb-Hosack/ Steelton Village

Linda Henry, *Co-chair*  
**lshenry4@gmail.com**  
 Lillie Banner, *Co-chair*  
 Meetings held 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Resurrection Missionary Baptist Church, 280 Hosack Social/food 6:30 - 7 p.m.

### SouthSide C.A.N.

Debera Diggs, *President*  
 614-598-0237  
 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.  
 1460 S. Champion at Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry  
**www.southsidecan.org** and **www.facebook.com/SouthsideCommunityActionNetwork**

### Stambaugh-Elwood

Timothy Brown, *President*  
**promiserealty@att.net**  
 614-446-9090  
 Meetings on 4th Saturday of every month at 11 a.m.  
 Location varies, contact Tim Brown for current location

### Vassor Village

Beau Bayliss, *Vice President*  
**bayliss.1456@gmail.com**  
 1st 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**

## COLUMBUS SOUTH SIDE AREA COMMISSION (CSSAC)

The Columbus South Side Area Commission (CSSAC) is an organization that brings together the ten civic associations in South Columbus between Livingston and Rte. 104, along with representatives from business, education, and social services to provide a link between these moving parts and organizations in the South Side.

The Commission is designed to provide a voice for those who may want to raise a complaint, find funding for a project or even volunteer to help.

CSSAC works to increase voluntary citizen participation in decision-making for City services and provide advice to the City Administration and City Council about community safety, zoning, housing, business and economic development, recreation and parks, education, planning, health and human services.

The CSSAC elected a new executive board last month, nam-

ing a new President, Vice President and Treasurer.

Jim Griffin, one of the founders of the Vassor Village Civic Association, was re-elected CSSAC President. Zoning Chair Curtis Davis was elected Vice President and Cassandra Patterson was re-elected as Treasurer and Fiscal Agent.

Lou and Bob Eros have resigned. Their vacated seats will be filled by appointments made by CSSAC Chair Jim Griffin and approved by the full commission. Ms. Katie Radford was re-elected as the Southern Orchards commissioner at a special election on March 2nd. The results of the election will be accepted by the Commission at their March 25th meeting. She will take her seat following appointment by Mayor Michael B. Coleman and ratification by Columbus City Council in April.

The CSSAC meets monthly at 7 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of the month at Barack Recreation Center. Meetings are public and all are welcome. ♦

### WE ASKED COMMISSIONERS TO SHARE THEIR ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS:

- 1 Why are you part of your local commission?
- 2 What's the most important thing to helping the South Side move forward?
- 3 If you could change one thing about the South Side, what would it be?



### James Griffin

Griffin is a life-long resident of Columbus, Ohio and has lived on the South Side for over 20 years. Griffin was one of the three original

founders of the Vassor Village Civic Association in 2003, and has served that organization in a number of capacities. He currently serves as the At-Large member.

Griffin has been a member of the Columbus South Side Area Commission since its inception in 2008, and was a member of the Columbus South Side Area Commission Task Force. He has a degree in Library Science from The Ohio State University.

In addition to his civic and commission work he is very active in his church and several other non-profit organizations. Griffin was recently re-elected as President of the Columbus South Side Area Commission.

#### ANSWERS:

- 1 I was actually part of the Task Force that created the two commissions that now represent the interests of South Columbus. I became involved because I feel strongly that we need to be at the table with the Columbus City Council so that our needs, opinions, and aspirations are heard.
- 2 The most important thing is to engage our residents and business owners—to encourage our neighbors to become involved with their neighborhoods as well as issues impacting all of South Columbus. Communication is critical to achieve community engagement.
- 3 If I could change one thing, it would be to see good paying manufacturing jobs return to South Columbus. Good jobs stabilize our neighborhoods. We have never recovered from the economic devastation of the many factories closing. We need increased job training help in South Columbus.



### Cassandra Patterson

Patterson is the newly re-elected Treasurer and Fiscal Agent for the CSSAC.

Patterson is a life-long resident of the South Side and is an active member of the Innis Gardens Village Civic Association and has also been a Girl Scout leader and an afterschool tutor.

She is employed as the Asset Management Coordinator for Homeport (formerly Columbus Housing Partnership), a position which gives her great satisfaction and has an in-depth financial and marketing background.

In addition to her other community activities, she is also very active in her Church. Cassandra is a tenacious community activist and is very engaged in continuous improvement for her community and the South Side.

#### ANSWERS:

- 1 I've lived on the South Side my whole, entire life. I know what it was, and I know what it can be again. The feel of family and community...the love. I love the South Side and I want to be there for my community. We all have to step up sometime.
- 2 Jobs and job training for residents. We need new businesses to move in. Local businesses need Small Business Administration help like trainings and incubators. Education and schools are a big thing. You cannot have a viable, sustainable community without good schools. You need a mix: families, single folks and empty nesters.
- 3 Public perception. So often, people focus on the negative things. They don't see the community gardens, the businesses that have started, the things going on in the parks. The people...period.



### Curtis Davis

Davis is currently the Zoning Chair for the CSSAC and serves as Vice President. He is very active in the Vassor Village Civic Association.

Davis is Managing Partner for ICS, which is a full service telecom company, providing information and communication services to commercial clients. Davis moved to Columbus to design the fire and security systems for Ameriflora in 1992.

Among the organizations and councils he has served on are the Columbus Chamber Small Business Council, City of Columbus Licensing Board, Member of Association of Telecom Professionals and the Columbus Softball Association.

#### ANSWERS:

- 1 Because I want to help bring back an area that once was thriving, and got lost in the shuffle.
- 2 Working together for the common good, the people who are upbeat and positive in getting the word out about the new South Side.
- 3 Blight and crime are the two big issues. If we can get a handle on that, the rest will grow and take off even more.

*“We need to be at the table with the Columbus City Council so that our needs, opinions, and aspirations are heard.”*



## South Side Website to Connect Residents, Businesses

By Andrew King

Bob Leighty is a self-proclaimed information geek. The jack-of-all-trades activist and organizer has his hand in plenty of South Side dealings, but one of his main projects has become the recent launch of the South Side's first real website at [www.allthingsouth.org](http://www.allthingsouth.org).

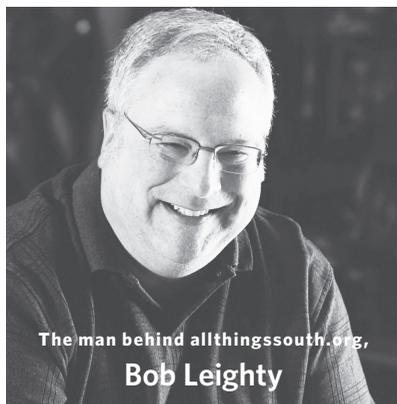
Leighty, the executive director of the Parsons Avenue Merchants Association, began the project last fall in an effort to help merchants find what they need in one central place.

"I knew I wanted to have a website for the Parsons Avenue Merchants Association with a lot of information about the special programs that the city has to help businesses. And just to have my own toolkit for when I meet with individual entrepreneurs," he said.

The site idea came about largely due to the need for improved communication between South Side residents and businesses. A need that Leighty identified long ago.

"Over the years, I've seen more and more that one of the biggest challenges we tend to have in South Columbus is communication. Folks not knowing what others are doing and ways that we can help each other," he said. "The more I thought about what we really need, it was some kind of portal that just has links to everything."

All Things South became that portal, where residents can go to find anything from area news to arts and entertainment to housing resources. Leighty says it's aimed at all those who may interact within the South Side.



The man behind [allthingsouth.org](http://allthingsouth.org),  
**Bob Leighty**

"There are a couple different purposes here," he said. "Some of it is geared toward people who live here. And certainly for people who are visiting here as well."

Will the site continue to expand? Leighty is adamant about not capping the possibilities.

"If people create some interesting websites or Facebook pages or something like that, let's do it," he laughed. "I love the idea of hosting the online version of the newspaper. I want to build that over time and archive the older editions. I want to continue to improve the communications, and make people more aware of it."

Leighty said the response has been largely positive, and that he hopes to increase awareness.

"I'm tickled with the response I've gotten," Leighty said. "Some people are aware of it and some aren't, but over time I just want to promote it where I can and add things on there."

The site is already a valuable resource in Leighty's day-to-day life, and he hopes others feel the same.

"I interact with a lot of people in the South Side of Columbus, and it's hard to remember things sometimes to tell everybody," he said. "There's a lot out there. So just to have a place to refer them to and have a place that I can look at myself to refresh my memory is useful."

To link to your organization's website or to have your meeting or event listed, send the details including a short description, date, time and location to [southerngatewaycolumbus@gmail.com](mailto:southerngatewaycolumbus@gmail.com). ♦

## New South Side Area Plan Unveiled

By Andrew King

Representatives from the Department of Development's Planning Division will meet with the Columbus South Side Area Commission to present the finalized update to the plan on March 25th (7 p.m. at Barack Recreation Center). The Commission will be asked to vote on its approval before the process begins for adoption of the plan by Columbus City Council.

The 40-page document states the plan's goals are to provide land use recommendations, provide guidelines for the design of new development, and inform of capital improvement priorities.

The South Side Planning Area, which according to the plan, is, "bound by Livingston Avenue (west of Parsons Avenue) on the north, Alum Creek on the east, State Route 104 on the south, and the Scioto River on the west (excluding the Brewery District and German Village Historic Review Districts), is a fully developed, urban district approximately 3,443 acres in size. Located a few miles south of downtown, this area lies midway between the core of the city and its southern boundary."

The plan identifies the types of usage throughout the South Side, and makes recommendations as to how the spaces could be better used. Spaces are broken down into uses such as commercial, industrial, different types of residential or even vacant.

The plan also continues the Riverfront Vision Plan, begun in 1995. Ideally, Columbus would like to reclaim lands along the river's edge and re-purpose them for "public park use and commercial access." The plan envisions, "large open water bodies," "40 acres of newly created wetlands," and a visitor center, among other natural improvements.

The impending capital improvements to make the plan a reality are perhaps the most important piece. These include anything from additional shelters in parks, to bicycle facilities and new road medians.

There will be studies on adding bicycle facilities along Whittier Street, State Route 104, along the Scioto River on Alum Creek and on Parsons Avenue, though there are still several considerations remaining for such a project.

The plan discusses nearly 100 "30-foot-tall aluminum poles," with luminaries on top for South High Street and Parsons Avenue. The lighting would cost an estimated \$1 million per street, for a total of \$2 million.

South Side residents are encouraged to comment on the plan. More information can be found at [development.columbus.gov](http://development.columbus.gov) or by contacting Mark Dravillas at 645-6823.

Full Online Calendar of meetings and events at [www.allthingsouth.org](http://www.allthingsouth.org)

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**EDUCATION BULLETIN BOARD**

# Diplomas Now Makes Huge Difference at South High School

By Dani Moses

When South High students walk through newly painted hallways to class, they pass walls lined with quotes that hope to motivate and inspire. In 2009, the Columbus Board of Education, in partnership with the Ohio School Facilities Commission, spent \$32.1 million remodeling the building to create a “21st century learning environment.”

The facility remodel is not the only transformation South has experienced. With low graduation and attendance rates and *Ohio Graduation Test* passage rates as low as 35%, the school needed to show academic improvement as well.

In August 2012, “Diplomas Now” entered South High School. The program is a collaboration among three organizations: Johns Hopkins University’s Talent Development Secondary (supporting instructors and improving curriculum), City Year (providing near peer mentors and tutors), and Communities in Schools (trained social workers linking students to community resources and providing in-school counseling).

The program currently functions in 44 of the nation’s toughest middle and high schools in 12 large American cities. Research has shown that about 75% of all dropouts can be identified as early as the 6th grade by looking at their attendance, behavior and coursework in Math and English. “Diplomas Now” finds these students and reaches out early in an attempt to help them overcome academic and personal barriers.

“Diplomas Now” works to create an environment of learning and support for students



and staff alike. Sophomore Travon Jackson transferred in from another school and spoke about how the program changed him.

“At the beginning of the year I didn’t care about school...didn’t go to class...didn’t come to school,” Jackson said. “If I did go to class, I was acting out. I changed. Got to thinking about how I was going to be in 10 or 20 years. “Diplomas Now” motivates me to come every day and to do something while I’m here.”

Making it to the 10th grade quadruples a student’s chance of graduating high school, so South High’s “Diplomas Now” program began its focus in the 9th grade. In 2013, only five South High freshmen failed to move on to 10th grade, compared with 70 who did not pass the year before. In the entire “Diplomas Now” network, South made the most progress last year, and was named “Diplomas Now” High School of the Year in recognition of collective student improvement.

Second-year teacher Amelia Baumgardner credits the program with allowing her to take pedagogical risks, largely due to the extra help the program provides.

“While many first year teachers are advised to just keep their heads down and simply to survive, the support of a team of adults who all care about the students succeeding gives me the time, energy and confidence to be ambitious and innovative with my lesson plans. It allows me to both complete and go beyond what is required of me by the state... to take risks in the classroom to benefit our students,” Baumgardner said.

Some of the support Baumgardner feels comes from her 9th grade teacher team.

“Diplomas Now’ came in and put a fo-

cus on teams,” 9th and 10th grade principal Mark Hayward explained. “There is that sense of community...that sense of teachers supporting teachers.”

“When I got to South three years ago, students did not respect authority. They weren’t striving to graduate. They were falling through the cracks. For the most part students want to be here and want to graduate from high school and that didn’t exist three years ago,” Hayward said.

Through fostering partnerships, City Year has started several extra curricular programs such as South High Harmony, where students have the opportunity to develop as performers and give back to their community. City Year and David Brown of The Harmony Project traveled with this group to Washington D.C. last spring and will travel to New York City this April to perform and experience the city.

Tenth grader Selena Jobe spoke highly of her experience as a new member.

“Before I joined I didn’t have many people to talk to that care,” she said. “Now I have people to connect with – a positive place.”

The “Diplomas Now” program at South High faces an uncertain future as the funds to sustain the program next year are still being sought.

Brenda Scott, City Year Impact Manager at South, says the program’s success should prove its worth.

“It is important for ‘Diplomas Now’ to remain at South because of the success with our students after only one year,” Scott said. “Imagine if it were here for three or four years. The possibilities of how much our students will succeed are endless.”♦

**CONTACT US**

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Read this issue via the web

[www.allthingsouth.org](http://www.allthingsouth.org)

This Newspaper 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.

This Newspaper’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 number of copies to be printed, mailed or otherwise distributed is at the discretion of the Editorial Committee within the available resources.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR  
25

### Zoning Meeting

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
757 Carolyn Ave.  
6:00 p.m.

Support the Reeb-Hosack/Steelton Village Committee by attending the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) meeting where variance requests submitted by PSC Metals and opposed by RH/SV and the CSSAC will be discussed.

MAR  
29

### KickButtColumbus

Highway Ramp Cleanup Event  
1911 E. Broad Street (Wolfe Park)  
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

KickButtColumbus is seeking 400 enthusiastic volunteers to clean up cigarette litter from our city's highway exit and entry ramps. Great food, T-shirts, music and fun. Compete for the coveted Golden Ashtray Award. This is a City of Columbus Community Improvement (KCB) Partnership to remove blighted conditions. To volunteer, just register online at [www.kickbuttcolumbus.eventbrite.com](http://www.kickbuttcolumbus.eventbrite.com)

APR  
15

### Gas Line Discussion

Barack Recreation Center  
580 Woodrow Ave.  
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Discussion of new gas line installation impacting SS CAN and Vassor Village.

## ON THE SPIRITUAL SIDE

To share your uplift organization's information for publication please email:

[southerngatewaycolumbus@gmail.com](mailto:southerngatewaycolumbus@gmail.com)

### Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

(Independent, Orthodox Bible Centered Congregation)

80 E. Markison Ave. at Third St.  
614-443-9491

Pastors: Floyd L. Stolzenburg and Kelly W. Raegan  
[www.columbus-lutheran.org](http://www.columbus-lutheran.org)  
[emmanuel@columbus-lutheran.org](mailto:emmanuel@columbus-lutheran.org)

Sunday Worship at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 9:15 a.m. More informal blended worship service on 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 5 p.m. Outreach broadcast Sundays at 5 p.m. on WRFD (AM 880). Youth Program, Home Group Bible Studies, Grief-prayer evangelism and serving Christ in small group studies. Organ, Senior Choir, Bell Choir, dinner outings. East Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. at Greenlawn Cemetery Mausoleum. The congregation was founded in 1898 on Reeb Avenue as a California Mission-Styled Church designed by noted architect Frank Packard and built in 1923. The building features Ten Commandment monuments and ornate stained glass window panels built by the German-American Von Grichten brothers of Munich-NYC-Columbus.

### St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

322 East Stewart Ave.  
Church: 614-444-0625

School: 614-444-4216

Pastor: Snowden G. Simms Vicar: Aaron Duve

Principal: Phil Glende Evangelism

Outreach: Karen Holt

[www.stpaulcares.org](http://www.stpaulcares.org)

Sunday Worship at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., with fellowship and refreshments, 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and bible class at 9:15 a.m. Nursery, Hearing Assistance Equipment, Regular, Large Print and Children's bulletins. Organ, Junior and Senior Choirs and

Bell Choirs. Thursday evening basic Bible classes.

Mission: To share the truth and love of God's saving word, and our personal faith in that word, within our church, our community and the world through active member involvement specifically to preach...to teach...to reach...by each.

### Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

(Reconciling in Christ Congregation)

404 S. Third St.

614-224-6818

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Charles Peterson

[www.oldtrinity.com](http://www.oldtrinity.com)

Saturday worship at 5 p.m. (informal) Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 9:15 a.m. and Wednesday 7 p.m. Nursery, Organ, Choir, weekly commemoration of exemplary Christian evangelists/witnesses/saints and martyrs. Founded 1945, built 1856, we welcome all people into our community of faith regardless of race, age, gender, identity, martial status, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientation, national origin, or economic status. Mission: Sharing the word of God through worship and teaching, with love and service in our congregation and our community.

THIS NEWSPAPER  
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AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

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[southerngatewaycolumbus@gmail.com](mailto:southerngatewaycolumbus@gmail.com)

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