

# SOUTH SIDE VOICE

Presented by United Way of Central Ohio and the City of Columbus

360 SOUTH 3RD STREET,  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215  
JULY 2014, | VOL. 1, NO. 6

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

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of Central Ohio

## South Side Settlement House Legacy Lives On in New Heritage Park

State-of-the-art facility will help manage storm water, beautify area



By Austin Owens

Three years ago, a well-known area landmark, the South Side Settlement House, closed its doors. The Settlement House provided food, clothing, and hope to south side residents for over 112 years. The building that once bustled with helping hands is now a vacant lot – but it won't be for long as the City of Columbus has plans to convert the space to a multi-function park with a purpose.

The lot, at the intersection of East Innis and South Washington Avenue, will be part of a pilot project known as Blueprint Columbus.

“Blueprint is an effort to control sewer overflows by removing excessive rainwater, and installing green infrastructure,” said Susan E. Ashbrook, Assistant Director of Sustainability with the City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities.

Part of Blueprint Columbus' charge is repurposing vacant properties into green

spaces with storm water control features. The selection of the former South Side Settlement House site was one that Mayor Michael Coleman and members of the community hope will help with ongoing revitalization of the Reeb-Hosack/Steelton Village area.

“Blueprint Columbus is a comprehensive plan to eliminate sewer overflows, create jobs and make our neighborhoods stronger,” said Coleman. “I am very pleased that one of the first Blueprint projects is going to create a new park featuring storm water controls where the South Side Settlement House used to stand,” said Mayor Coleman.

“The area was chosen for a pilot for a number of reasons. The Reeb-Hosack area has a number of sewer overflows. It is also an area where the City has a number of other projects going on that we thought a new park would complement – the Reeb Elementary school renovation, new senior housing, [and more],” added Ashbrook.

The new name for the site will be South Side Settlement Heritage Park, thereby honoring the legacy of the venerable old facility and continuing to use the site for a public purpose. According to the City of Columbus's website, Heritage Park will feature some major improvements.

“Blueprint Columbus will put this land to good use by directing storm water to the site where a porous pavement basketball court and bioswales (landscaping feature that uses plants' roots to trap silt and pollution) will treat and slowly release the water into storm drains.

“Trees will also be a feature in this new park bringing shade and beauty to the neighborhood while also helping to absorb and clean storm water,” she added. “Other amenities will include a walking path, benches and picnic tables, a play area, and a shade canopy.”

The goal of the improvements is to help reduce the load on the storm-water overflows while providing usable space for the neighborhood.

Sewer overflows can be devastating to homes and businesses. Excess rainwater runoff can end up in basements and cause sewage

back-ups. According to the Department of Public Utilities, in 2012 there were 85 sanitary sewer overflows at 26 locations, and 183 reported basement backups.

“Although it is only about an acre in size, the new park will be able to treat the storm water from an area that is about 6 acres,” said Ashbrook. “This should help improve water quality, in addition to relieving some local flooding issues.”

The plans for the park have been approved by the Reeb-Hosack/Steelton Village Committee and have received support from the Area Commission.

“I think it will add much nostalgia to the neighborhood, and it will be wonderful for the Boys and Girls Club,” said Reeb-Hosack/Steelton Village resident, Ruth Bell. “It will be a great addition to the community.” ♦

*The city aims to have construction of South Side Settlement Heritage Park substantially completed by August 2015. You can learn more about the project by visiting [www.columbus.gov/blueprint](http://www.columbus.gov/blueprint)*

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MICHAEL B. COLEMAN, MAYOR

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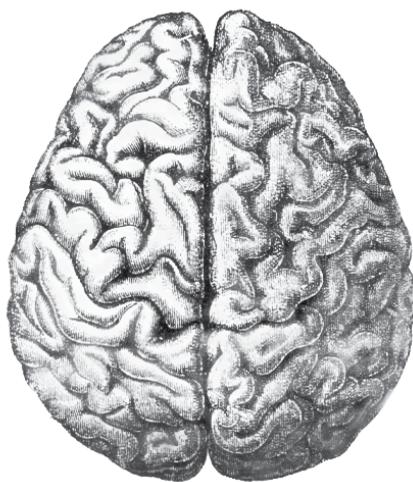
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## PARENT CORNER



# AVOID SUMMER BRAIN DRAIN!

Summer is no time to  
turn off the mind

By Erin West

According to research, when students return to school after a long summer vacation, they've lost one to three months' worth of learning. To succeed in school and life, children and young adults need ongoing opportunities to learn and practice essential skills. This is especially true during the summer months. Like the rest of our muscles of the body, the brain should be exercised daily. Here are a few ideas how parents can encourage summer learning:

### READ

Join the Summer Reading Program at the library. Kids can get prizes and it is fun to browse for books that are based on interests rather than what they are required to read.

Practice reading everywhere: street signs, billboards, product labels at the grocery store – sure, some of it might be a little dry, but soak in all that knowledge and impress friends and family with your knowledge!

### GO

**Columbus Museum of Art**  
(Free on Sundays)

**COSI** (discount membership for low income folks is \$40 for the year, and includes two named adults and dependent children or grandchildren 18 and under.)

### LIMIT SCREEN TIME

According to the **Kaiser Family Foundation**:

Kids under age 6 watch an average of about two hours of screen media per day, primarily TV and videos or DVDs.

Kids and teens 8 to 18 years spend nearly four hours a day in front of a TV screen and almost two additional hours on the computer (outside of schoolwork) and playing video games.

Counting all media outlets, 8-18 year-olds devote an average of seven hours and 38 minutes to using entertainment media across a typical day

### PLAY



**Play board games to build thinking skills**—a fun engaging way to sneak learning in (some examples: Scrabble, Farkle, Blockus, Yahtzee, Taboo, Jenga etc.)

**Imagination play**—get on the floor, build with blocks, play with dolls, and pretend “house,” all which encourage discussion.

**Video games**—play with your child. Select a game with educational qualities (examples: Sim City, Spore, Civilization, Math Blaster, Oregon Trail, Jump Start etc.)

### STRATEGIES FOR LIMITING SCREEN TIME:

**Know it is okay as a parent to set limits.** Explain to your child how it is important to have many different experiences in the summer.

**Set the example.** Limit your own viewing in order to show your children how to use their time in a different way.

**Have specific times for viewing** (hour in the afternoon), identify number of minutes per day, or have children select two shows per day.

### ONLINE RESOURCES:

**pbskidsplay.org**—fun, educational games related to PBS content

**camp.wonderopolis.org**—Welcome to Wonderopolis, a place where natural curiosity and imagination lead to exploration and discovery in learners of all ages. Brought to life by the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL), Wonders of the Day will help you find learning moments in everyday life—ones that fit in with dinner preparations, carpool responsibilities, a stolen moment between breakfast and the bus, or within school curriculum and education programs.

**www.storylineonline.net**—famous people read books online.

## Have we connected with you yet?

Tiffany  
Harmon



Jim Joy



Erin West

**F**rom July-October of this year, the Parent Connection team is knocking on doors of residents of the South Side, hoping to link families to services that help with things they need or share information about opportunities that will make a difference for their family.

During the visit, the Parent Connection team will invite South Side residents to participate in a short interview that will take approximately 30 minutes. Participants will be offered a \$25 Kroger gift card.

The Parent Connection started in January 2014 in collaboration with United Way of Central Ohio and Community Development for all People. Parent Connection team members are committed to helping parents become the best they can be in life for the sake of their children's futures.

To schedule an interview or to get more information about our program and services, please contact (614) 445-7342 ext 34 or email Erin West at ewest@4allpeople.net



# New Prenatal Program Targets Rampant Infant Mortality

Moms2B Opens in Maloney Health Care Center on Parsons Ave.

ILLUSTRATION OF DR. PATRICIA GABBE, MOMS2BE CO-FOUNDER, WITH PATIENT

By Mandy Fowler

Infant mortality (the death of a child before its first birthday) in the South Side area is at an alarming high compared to county and state averages. In fact, Ohio has some of the highest incidences of infant mortality in the country, with some third-world countries doing better than Franklin county. In 2012, 1,047 babies died within their first year of life, and black children are more than twice as likely to die than are white children.

The John R. Maloney Health Center is working to change that. Moms2B, a multidisciplinary program, will begin offering healthcare professionals and resources to assist expecting mothers and working to meet a range of needs on July 15.

“The whole Moms2B team is really excited to be opening a session at the Maloney Center in July. The community has really welcomed us with open arms and we are really looking forward to be working with the mothers, babies and families of the South Side,” announced Jamie Sager, a social worker and site coordinator for the Moms2B South Side location. Sager has been attending community meetings for a year to prepare for the Moms2B site opening.

Moms2B, developed and co-founded in 2010 by a trio of pediatricians and infant mental health specialists, seeks to provide the learning tools that will help at risk mothers make healthier decisions and deliver healthier babies. What began as a 10-week course in Weinland Park grew into a comprehensive prenatal program with multiple site locations, providing clinical and social support throughout the infant’s first year of life. Over the course of the last three

years, Moms2B has enrolled 350 women in the Columbus area and welcomed 350 babies, while helping reduce the number of low birth-weight babies by 50 percent.

National averages reported by the Center for Disease Control show that the medical costs for a premature/ low birth-weight baby are approximately \$46,000 in the baby’s first year, while care costs associated with full-term infants is much lower, around \$4,000.

**LEADING FACTORS THAT PUT MOTHERS AND INFANTS AT HIGH RISK ARE:**

- Being born too small or too soon
- Serious birth defects due to poor maternal health
- Serious complications during pregnancy or birth
- Unsafe sleeping conditions
- Poor nutrition (of both the mother and baby)

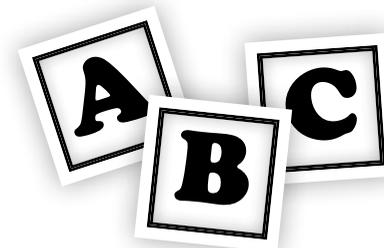
Risks to infants don’t end with birth, and the first year is rife with danger, especially for families living below the poverty line. The health of the mother before during and after pregnancy, including housing and safety of their environment, food security, tobacco and other substance use, and stability, as well as education and employment opportunities

are also factors that influence mortality rates.

The Moms2B group meets once a week for a healthy, nutritional meal and discussion about education and nutritional needs while empowering women to deliver full-term healthy babies. The site offers a variety of healthcare professionals ranging from primary care physicians, family and community advocates and advisers, dietitians, certified lactation consultants, nurses and midwives.

Moms2B focuses on working with individuals and their specific needs through setting short-term goals such as proper nutrition, maternal and infant health and knowledge, intermediate goals to help improve food security, social support and housing stability, as well as long-term goals that include reducing the infant mortality rate, lowering the maternal anxiety and depression rates, and improving the overall health of the individual and family. With the program located in the John R. Maloney Health and Wellness Center, being able to provide more resources and continuing care for mothers and families could have significant positive outcomes for the South Side.

“The passion and involvement of the community to take up the prevention of infant mortality as a cause is amazing. Awareness and action steps need to be taken in order to protect the babies, mothers and families that can be affected by infant mortality,” commented Sager. Unlike other programs that have on-line courses and videos that educate mothers about the risks of infant death, community involvement is the key; Moms2B has the level of involvement and resources needed. ♦



## It's Not Too Early to Find Childcare for the New School Year!

**Southside Learning & Development Center has early childcare slots available as part of the Mayor's new Early Start Columbus Preschool program.**

Children must be four years old by 9/30/14. Working parents with income between 126%-300% of poverty who live in Columbus City Schools District and plan to enroll their child in CCS in 2015 and who work or are in school at least 30 hours/week may qualify. There is also a co-pay of \$5-\$10 per week based on income.

**SSL&DC also is currently enrolling 3-5 year olds for Head Start** (live in 43207 zip code and be at or below poverty level), has pre-kindergarten half day slots available for families up to 200% of poverty and offers Title XX (Publicly Funded Child Care) for full day, full year (ages 6 weeks - 5 years) childcare.

**And, for families that do not qualify for any of those programs, SSL&DC has services available on a sliding fee scale.** Check out the website at [www.SouthSideLearning.org](http://www.SouthSideLearning.org) or call 614-444-1529 for more information.

**THE JOHN R. MALONEY HEALTH CENTER** is located at 1905 Parsons Ave. For information on the Moms2B group meeting times, resources, or how you can help support and raise awareness about infant mortality on the South Side, please contact site coordinator Jamie Sager at 614-307-334 or attend the Open House July 8 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

# NEIGHBORHOOD PRIDE CENTER: FROM SIDELINES TO REEB-BOUND



## Center aims to bolster pride in the South Side *By Ryan Chamberlain*

**B**oxing combos are drummed out on heavy bags. Shoes squeal cricket-like on the basketball court floor. Peels of protest answer taunting laughs; a coach's whistle shrieks shrilly; sweat and chlorine conspire to remind that this is the furthest thing from a government tower clad in ivory.

With a smile and a faint southern drawl, Jo Anne St. Clair, Program Manager of the South Side Neighborhood Pride Center and South Side Neighborhood Liaison tells me, "We're not afraid to get our hands dirty, here." Deep in the corridor of the Barack Recreation Center – one door over from the boxing area – is an ungloved hand extended from the City to the South Side neighborhood.

There are five Neighborhood Pride Centers in all, and they are here as part of a bigger initiative of Mayor Michael Coleman's to improve communities by addressing their specific needs.

The Pride Center is where a South Sider can file a complaint, attend a community meeting, sow the seeds of a community program, or just ask a question. Code enforcement officers, police liaisons, and area commissioners (among others) meet here to discuss South Side-specific issues and programming. Each month, there are four meetings, three of which are at 1:30 p.m. and one at 3:00 p.m., to better ensure that anyone who wants to attend is able.

"We're here to be a resource," Jo Anne said. The "we" is few – there is one intern, Samantha Hudson, working on her master's degree in Social Work at Ohio State and supervised by St. Clair.

Amid the ad hoc cubicle walls is the elephant in the room: the room itself. How effective can a government re-

source be in a place you might mistake for a locker room?

What seems like a disadvantage, though, frequently pays off. Many parents walk down the hallway waiting for the end of a pick-up game and stumble into St. Clair's office. This means she receives more than the semi-retired political activists in her room. Here, she shakes hands with a real sample of the neighborhood. Community leaders also use the office for small meetings on a regular basis.

Of course, passers-by don't always have the most pressing concerns of the community with them in a handy notebook.

The Center is in a transitional period, though, and the facility will be moved to a more "official" setting soon. Having been in the Rec Center only since 2011, the anticipated \$12.1 million renovation of the historic Reeb School will also be the new site for the South Side Neighborhood Pride Center by the end of summer 2015.

In the meantime, the "dirty hands" of the Center will be doubly busy, fanning off St. Clair and Samantha (there is no air conditioning in the Barack Rec building) and doing what they can to address the questions and concerns of the community. ♦

**ABOVE:**  
Jo Anne St. Clair (L) and OSU Intern Samantha Hudson

## GREAT NEWS *for* JOB SEEKERS

Rebounding economy has brought new prospects, more hope

*By Judy Czarnecki*

**F**rom Accounting Clerks to Zoo Rangers for the summer, jobs are available in Columbus! A check of [jobview.monster.com](http://jobview.monster.com) found over 1,000 job listings with many in the trucking industry, hospitality, retail, and in the information technology fields. Some companies will even pay you to be trained!

So what does it take to get one of these jobs? It depends on the job, the employer, and whether or not there is a match with the skills, knowledge, abilities, education and work experience you already have. Some jobs have special training or certifications required (for instance, most truck driver positions require a Commercial Driver's License), but others are within reach of people who have a high school education/GED, a good driving record, the ability to pass a background check and usually a drug-screen, and who have a reliable way to get to work every day, on-time, regardless of the weather or child-care issues and who can get along with others, especially co-workers, bosses and customers.

### Here is a sample of available jobs in or close to the South Side:

**THE JOB STORE** has opened an office just north Columbus Castings at 2211 Parsons Ave. and is looking for reliable, physically fit individuals for work at Columbus Castings. They need welders, chippers/grinders, machine operators, and blue print readers. Skilled trade background should include electrical, welding, burning torch etc. Applicants must be flexible to work any shift as needed. Starting pay is \$13 per hour. If interested, contact Vernon Murphy, On-site Manager, at (614) 517-5611 or [vmurphy@thejobstorellc.com](mailto:vmurphy@thejobstorellc.com).

**ROCKTENN** at 1015 Marion Rd. Full time Equipment Operator must be willing to work days, evenings, nights and overtime. Forklift, skid-steer & articulating loader experience helpful. To apply, contact Rick Herringshaw at (614) 445-3207 or e-mail him at [rherrin2@rocktenn.com](mailto:rherrin2@rocktenn.com)

**CEVA LOGISTICS:** part-time Forklift Operator, Groveport. Might become fulltime. Must be willing to work any shift including weekends. Check the listing on their website at [www.cevalogistics.com](http://www.cevalogistics.com) job code GR-H01-0028. CEVA will train you through their forklift certification program.

**UNITED MCGILL CORP.** Groveport: Groundskeeper & Handyman seasonal, part-time through fall. Responsibilities include: grounds keeping and clearing; basic maintenance, repairs, painting and driving light trucks. Requires some work in Lancaster so applicant needs reliable personal transportation. Apply online at [www.unitedmcgill.com/jobs/job\\_index.html](http://www.unitedmcgill.com/jobs/job_index.html)

**HOMEPORT**, 562 E. Main St. is seeking a Marketing and Communications Coordinator, B.A. required; find the job posting and qualifications at [www.homeportohio.org/about/careers](http://www.homeportohio.org/about/careers)

**NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

has 255 jobs currently available ranging from Patient Access Reps to custodians, HVAC positions to nurses and doctors. Check out their website at [www.careers.nationwidechildrens.org](http://www.careers.nationwidechildrens.org). Applications are taken only online, but assistance with applying is available at [talent@nationwidechildrens.org](mailto:talent@nationwidechildrens.org) or (614) 355-4111. Calls are encouraged as the application system is complex. NCH is a large employer with about 30 percent of employees living in zip codes 43205, 06 & 07.

*If you do not have a computer or online access, help is available at both the Parsons Ave. and South High Street branches of the Columbus Metropolitan Library and at COWIC (1111 E. Broad St.)*

**And we're looking for some help, too!****SOUTH SIDE VOICE**

is looking for South Side residents to write articles and take photos for publication. We're looking for residents who love their community and want a creative and satisfying outlet to express that. All work is on a freelance basis; please send an e-mail with a brief bio and samples of either writing or photography attached to [paper@southside-voice.org](mailto:paper@southside-voice.org). Not for you? Don't forget to tell that creative niece, nephew, brother or mother about this amazing opportunity to hone skills and explore the South Side in a whole new way!

# HELP WANTED

If you are looking for help finding a job or looking for help with job training, the Ohio Means Jobs-Columbus/Franklin County Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation may be able to help.

OMJ-CFC COWIC is located at 1111 East Broad Street in Suite 201, and is dedicated to helping Central Ohio businesses meet their employment needs. Their website, [www.cowic.org](http://www.cowic.org), is a treasure trove of resources for those looking for employment or even just training that could help them take a step up the career ladder. It lists the organization's many free services, from simply identifying skills one might not realize they even possess to updating resumes.

One of the challenges of obtaining and retaining gainful employment is transportation, but that's another obstacle

## BEATING *the* UNEMPLOYMENT BLUES

OMJ-CFC COWIC bridges gap between you and the employers ready to hire *By Austin Owens*

the organization has taken on. OMJ-CFC COWIC developed Ride2Work to connect workers with employers, using OMJ-CFC COWIC's location as a hub so even jobs not on public transportation lines don't have to be out of reach.

"Working directly with employers and transportation companies, OMJ-CFC COWIC serves as a pick-up/ drop-off point for workers needing a ride to jobs they can't reach by traditional public transportation," reads the website on the ride program. "The shuttle service is provided at a fee paid by the employee through our payroll deduction. Since the start of the program, more than 230 workers have used OMJ-CFC COWIC as a transportation hub."

OMJ-CFC COWIC has been able to help many individuals on Columbus' South Side, as well.

"We have partnered with 162 jobseekers on the South Side sharing our services & conducting career assessments, work readiness workshops assisting with resume preparation, interview and soft skills training," said Jo Youngs, assistant director of business solutions for OMJ-CFC COWIC. "Nineteen jobseekers have received training scholarships for industry-specific certifications in hot industries and employment with great wages." Some of the employers who have hired South Side residents are International Technical Coatings, Crane Plastics, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Sewing Collections and ODW Logistics.

"There were 62 residents who received employment with both South Side employers and others throughout Franklin County," she went on. "Along with partnering with Community for All People, we have been able to be impactful, one step at a time." ♦

*Contact COWIC to schedule an appointment by calling them at (614) 559-5052, or visit them online at [www.cowic.org](http://www.cowic.org)*



*Opinion:*

### IMPROVING COLLEGE OPTIONS FOR SOUTH SIDE STUDENTS

Ohio should look to other states' initiatives to incentivize higher education

*By Michael Stinziano, State Representative, Ohio 18<sup>th</sup> District*

Helping students obtain an associate degree at an affordable community college and incentivizing those students to transfer to a university to complete their bachelor's degree is a top priority for me.

I support establishing a community-college transfer scholarship, an idea that's caught on in other states and merits a look here in Ohio as we look to encourage more Ohioans to achieve post-secondary credentials.

The transfer plan would allow a student with an associate's degree or a minimum of 30 credit hours of work to have the opportunity to receive a scholarship to a participating university.

The benefits should be obvious: The student has a credential that many times has a value in the labor market and then also a clear incentive to help them go on and earn a bachelor's degree.

For many students, starting at a community college makes smart financial sense. The average cost of tuition at an Ohio community college is in the approximately \$4,000 per year range. Starting at an Ohio community college can be part of a common sense strategy to hold down tuition costs and avoid costly college debt.

In fact, students starting at community colleges might be more the norm now than they have ever been. According to Complete College America, only 25 percent of U.S. college students are "traditional" full time students living on or near a campus.

And, we are blessed with having Columbus State Community College, located just a few short minutes from the South Side.

The Virginia College Transfer Grant is an example of how a transfer grant program might work.

An eligible student for the transfer grant program in Virginia has to be an in-state student, have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 for the associate's degree, and complete an associate degree at a community college and transfer it to a participating four-year institution.

Under the Virginia program, the maximum annual award is \$1,000. The Virginia system also incentivizes the pursuit of specific fields, such as engineering, math and science.

Ohio could look to programs elsewhere that have successfully developed a system for incentivizing a start at an affordable community college while encouraging students to pursue their bachelor's degree.

Please let me know what you think of the idea.

Remember, when you have a problem, question, or concern, or anytime that I can be of service, call me at (614) 466-1896, or e-mail me at [Rep18@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep18@ohiohouse.gov) and I will do everything I can to help.

I'm at the Statehouse working for you. ♦

*Rep. Michael Stinziano represents the 18<sup>th</sup> House District including the great neighborhoods and businesses of the South Side.*

## SAVE THE BUILDING, SAVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD



PHOTO BY TONY ROEL

Merion Village attempts to connect property buyers with aging but beautiful homes

By Austin Owens

The Merion Village Association is looking for a buyer for the duplex property located at 1138-1140 South High.

The property has been vacant for 10 years but, according to association president, Tony Roell, shouldn't just be torn down.

"The building appears to be in decent shape despite the neglect," said Roell. "The city has been granted a court order to demolish the building as the current owner has ignored citations to repair brick work on the rear of the building."

This building is but a harbinger of many other code violations on the south side of Columbus.

"The MVA wants to illustrate that this type of neglect cannot be tolerated and that we need the city's help to prevent these types of properties from getting to the point that demolition is the likely outcome," he said.

Code violations are handled by the Code Enforcement Division. Accord-

ing to the city's website, some common code violations include:

- High grass and/or noxious weeds
- Inoperable motor vehicles
- Unsanitary conditions
- Improperly maintained vacant structure

If you see code violations on your street or in your neighborhood, you can contact the Code Enforcement Division at (614) 645-2202, or by calling the City of Columbus 311 Call Center.

The Code Enforcement office is staffed from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

Code Enforcement also has a second shift which operates from noon – 9:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. This group of code officers is city-wide and they follow up on complaints such as running illegal businesses and unpermitted repairs.

The push by the MVA is to save the building located at 1138-1140 South High, using it to help revitalize the neighborhood.

"The hope is that we could find an interested party who would be willing purchase the property at a foreclosure sale, instead of the city demolishing the building," said Roell. "This building, if removed, will simply be another empty lot that will not improve the neighborhood." ♦

## The Legal Aid Society of Columbus Offers Help for Renters Whose Landlords Have Not Made Requested Repairs

By Judy Czarnecki

The Legal Aid Society and the City of Columbus, through the five Neighborhood Pride Centers, have teamed up to help residents in rental properties provide incentives to landlords to fix interior and exterior problems. The Legal Aid Society will work with tenants to establish an escrow account where rent will be held until the landlord makes necessary repairs or otherwise resolves the issues. The City of Columbus through Code Enforcement and the City Attorney's Office may already be involved with these properties through the 311 complaint process. This process can result in fines and court costs, if the repairs are not brought into compliance in a timely manner. This coordinated effort is supported by the City Attorney's office as one additional method to ensure that residents live in safe and sanitary housing.

Escrow accounts allow a third party to maintain control of money, usually a payment, and are often used to resolve disputes between tenants and property owners. When the landlord fixes the violation, the rent is released from escrow. The Legal Aid Society will provide the legal assistance necessary to establish the account at no cost to the tenant. To qualify for the program, renters must be current in payments to the landlord, must have already requested the landlord make the repairs, and otherwise be a tenant in good standing (in compliance with the rental agreement and not at risk of eviction). Code enforcement officers are being provided this information and can help residents access the referral to the program.

Issues that might require remedy include, but are not limited to: broken plumbing, broken windows or doors, broken or missing appliances (if included in the rental agreement), lack of hot water, leaking roof, porches that are structurally unsound, sagging or missing boards in areas generally walked through, and other unsanitary and/or dangerous conditions.

Renters would be wise to request repairs from their landlords in writing and to keep dated copies of all correspondence, and to photograph unaddressed property issues, even if only with a cell phone camera.

To get help, contact Jo Anne St. Clair at the South Side Neighborhood Pride Center at (614) 645-5220 or [jastclair@columbus.gov](mailto:jastclair@columbus.gov). The renter must provide their name, address, and other necessary information in order for a referral to be made to the Legal Aid Society of Columbus.

All provided information will remain confidential.

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Read this issue via the web [www.allthingsouth.org](http://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/Steeltown 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.

PHOTO COURTESY KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL



Opinion by guest columnist Sherri Palmer, of Keep Columbus Beautiful

## On a beautiful day with the sun shining, Parsons Ave welcomed 136 people who were serious about making a difference on the South Side.

We want to again thank Citi Global Services for partnering with Keep Columbus Beautiful as part of their Citi Global Services Community Day. Seventy-two Citi employees participated in the 2014 effort. Special thanks again to Justin Caltrider and his colleagues for reaching out to Citi Foundation to sponsor flowers for the summer planting. This is the second year for Citi to work on Plant Pride on Parsons. The summer planting was also made possible by sponsorship from Parsons Avenue Merchants Association, Nationwide Children's Hospital, The Anderson's General Store, Dan Charles Memorial Fund and a City of Columbus Community Garden grant. The remaining dollars came from a fundraiser with non-profit Funds2Org, a national organization that collects gently used shoes for repurposing in developing countries. South Side neighborhoods collected 142 bags of 25 pairs of shoes to raise over \$1600 during the month of April. Special recognition to Kathryn Green and Schumacher Place for serving as the fiscal agent for the fundraiser.

Other volunteer groups included: 30 youth and mentors from Expanding Vision Foundation, 15 employees from Nationwide Children's Hospital along with volunteers from Citizens for Stinziano, Southside Community Action Network, Hungarian Village, Schumacher Place, Edgewood Civic, Southside Neighbors Against Crime, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

Plant Pride on Parsons kicked off a new relationship with Oakland Nursery, who will care and maintain the hand-painted flower containers spanning two miles of Parsons Avenue. All 125 containers on the Avenue are highlighted by a large flowering Canna, surrounded by wave petunias, asparagus fern, vinca vine, salvia, coleus and a variety of herbs. Special thanks to Evelyn Chamberlain and her Oakland Nursery team who led the way by placing all the flowers at each planter up the avenue. Volunteer teams of three people followed them from planter to planter putting the flowers in place, with soil teams following closely behind. In addition to

the planters, three flowerbeds on Parsons Avenue were weeded and mulched. Following behind the planting teams were six cleaning teams, who scrubbed the planters to make them shine, and a special coating or sealant was applied by a team of volunteers to protect them from the weather.

Picking up litter along Parsons Avenue remains a priority. Two teams of volunteers picked up litter on both the east and the west side of Parsons, collecting 77 bags, or 2,310 lbs. of litter. (1.1 tons), plus 20 bags of recycling.

The morning was enhanced by a generous donation of coffee, juice and healthy food products from the May family, owners of Scrambler Marie's and the soon-to-open Fitness Loft. Jeff May Jr. and his colleagues set the pace with fitness warm-up. Volunteers who wore their Plant Pride on Parsons' T-shirts were given a lunch discount at Scrambler Marie's. Special kudos to Coca-Cola Refreshments for a generous donation of water and Power Aid to keep everyone hydrated.

Once again, thank you to everyone who helped to beautify the city's South side. Please enjoy an album of photos from the June 7th event here: <http://goo.gl/xvRDBH> ♦

## 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

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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., Shelter House at Smith Road Park, 1249 Smith Road

### 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.

### 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.

### SouthSide C.A.N.

Debera Diggs, *President*  
 614-598-2237. The SS CAN meeting will be held July 14th, 7:00 p.m. on the plaza at the Center for Peace at Corpus Christi Church, 1111 E. Stewart Ave. It will include a cookout. Please bring a side dish if possible.

### Stambaugh-Elwood

William Bibb, *Area Commissioner*  
**williambibb1@wowway.com** 614.500.2298;  
 Meetings on 4th Saturday of every month at 11 a.m. Location varies, contact William Bibb 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**

## COMMUNITY EVENTS



**TUESDAY JULY 15**

### MOMS2BE Opens at Maloney

FREE program; Open to pregnant women of any age; contact Jamie Sager (614) 307-3348 for more information

**JULY 1/JULY 15**

### FAT TUESDAY

6:30 p.m., Southeast Lions Park  
(Barthman & 6th)

After the Moms2Be open house, grab dinner at one of the area restaurants or bring your own chairs, food and non-alcoholic beverages, join the fun and listen as the sounds of jazz fill the air.

**WEDNESDAY JULY 2**

### HEALTHY U WORKSHOP

12:30 - 3:00 p.m. Marion-Franklin Rec. Center, 2801 Lockbourne Rd., Additional sessions July 9, 16, 23, 30 & August 6

Healthy U is a FREE 2 1/2-hour, six-session workshop hosted by professionals at Columbus Public Health that can help people with diabetes, asthma, arthritis, heart disease and other chronic conditions. Refreshments and other benefits are included. Contact Bob Holomuzki at (614) 645-6469 or bobh@columbus.gov to register or for more information.

**WEDNESDAY JULY 2**

### TEEN ART CAMP

Contact Barack Recreation Center for details (614) 645-3610

**SATURDAY JULY 5**

### WALK WITH A DOC

8:30 a.m., Indian Mound Park, 3901 Parsons Ave.

Meet at the shelter houses, or in the gym if weather is inclement

**MONDAY JULY 7**

### COLUMBUS ART WALK AND LANDMARK TOUR

Meet at St. Mary's Church  
684 S Third St. Tour begins at 6:30 p.m.

Join in conversations during these free hour-long guided tours, led by expert historians and guides. These unique tours offer a great way to explore the art, history, and architecture of our Columbus neighborhoods. Tours will begin promptly at the time and location listed. No need to register in advance - just show up. Visit columbuslandmarks.org for complete tour information. In case of inclement weather, please call (614) 221-0227 for tour status. A recorded message will be left by 6 p.m. on tour days.

**SATURDAY JULY 12**

### FLEA MARKET AND FREE PRODUCE

Unity Temple Church Of God In Christ,  
52 Reeb Avenue

Flea Market with Clothes, Household Items and Jewelry begins at 8:00 a.m.; Produce giveaway begins at 11:00 a.m. Bring your own containers to carry produce home. For more information call 614-444-7808 or visit www.facebook.com/UnityTempleCols

**SATURDAY JULY 12**

### ROCK THE BLOCK

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Presented by Habitat for Humanity, sponsored by Fifth Third Bank. Join your friends and neighbors, meet the new Habitat Homeowners and help beautify the neighborhood. Meet at 97 E. Woodrow - a cookout lunch will be provided for all participants. To volunteer contact Alex Moellenkamp at (614)419-2403

**SATURDAY JULY 12**

### CLASSIC CRUISE-IN AUTO SHOW

Dan's Drive-In 1881 S. High St., Registration for vehicle judging (\$8) starts at 4:30 p.m.

Viewing the cars is FREE! Questions? Call the Cruise-In (614) 315-6964.

**SUNDAY JULY 13**

### VASSOR VILLAGE GARDEN TOUR

FREE Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Begin your tour of 17 gardens at 523 E. Moler Ave. and enjoy viewing the variety provided by tropical, cottage, vegetable, planter, and perennial gardens.

**SUNDAY JULY 13**

### EDGEWOOD GARDEN TOUR

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

For more information: www.southsidecan.org or on facebook at South Side Community Action Network.

**SUNDAY JULY 13**

### PARTY ON THE PLAZA

(Parking lot corner of Parsons & Stanley) 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

FREE fun and healthy snacks while you listen to live entertainment, engage in art activities and visit information booths.

**SATURDAY JULY 19**

### WALK WITH A DOC

8:30 a.m. Indian Mound Park, 3901 Parsons Ave. meet at shelter houses (in the gym if weather is bad)

**SUNDAY JULY 27**

### GANTHERS PLACE GARDEN TOUR

11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

More information: www.southsidecan.org or on facebook at South Side Community Action Network.

**MONDAY JULY 29**

### ICE SKATING

1:00 p.m.

Contact Barack Recreation Center for details (614) 645-3610

**WEDNESDAY JULY 30**

### TEEN FEST

Franklin Park, 1777 E. Broad St. \$2 fee; Contact Barack Recreation Center for details (614) 645-3610

**APPS PROGRAM:** Don't forget - if you are a teen or young adult ages 16-24, Barack Recreation Center has activities every Thursday through Saturday night from 7:30-11:00 p.m. just for you! Contact Barack Recreation Center for details at (614) 645-3610

### SNEAK PEEK AT AUGUST EVENTS

**SATURDAY AUGUST 2**

### WALK WITH A DOC

8:30 a.m., Indian Mound Park, 3901 Parsons Ave. meet at shelter houses (in the gym if weather is bad)

**SATURDAY AUGUST 2**

### SOUTH CENTRAL COMMONS & GATEWAY SQUARE'S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT CELEBRATION,

Hal & Al's, 1297 Parsons Ave.,  
5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

FREE - includes food, entertainment, youth activities, and community information. Elected Officials, Police Officers, Fire Fighters and other members of City staff will be there to answer your questions.

## 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](mailto:paper@southsidevoice.org)