Variety Theatre Restoration

After many years of neglect, the Variety Theatre building was acquired by the non-profit organization “Friends of the Historic Variety Theatre” that was formed with the express purpose of saving and restoring the building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Delays occurred when the recession hit and funding became difficult to secure. Now with the help of many groups and individuals the restoration is ready to proceed.

Plans for the Variety Theatre include installing a historically correct replica of the Variety Marquee. Many thanks to those of you who purchased light bulbs for this great project! As soon as a date is set for the Marquee lighting party, you will all be invited.

In addition, the storefronts will be rehabilitated. Funding for the future use and restoration of the Theatre space is currently underway.

Lorain Avenue Road Improvement

No project of this importance would be complete without a new road. Therefore, pending City Council approval, the Jackson Administration has allocated $8 million in funding for resurfacing Lorain Avenue from W. 150th Street to W. 115th Street. (See page 3 for construction details)

Lorain Avenue Streetscape Enhancements

Enhancements to the street are what will draw people to our neighborhood. With the Jackson Administration’s commitment of $800,000 toward this project we can leverage the needed funds to make this the next Cleveland neighborhood destination. The Lorain Avenue streetscape will include enhancements from W. 123rd to W. 115th, similar to those at Kamms Corner and the Gordon Square Arts District.

Images: (Top) A rendering of Lorain & W. 117th street view; A look at the new Variety Theatre marquee; A pedestrian view of the Lorain-Variety Village District; A photo of the original Variety Theatre.

Councilwoman Dona Brady sincerely thanks the following people and organizations for their invaluable assistance on this neighborhood revitalization project:

Mayor Frank Jackson, Mayor’s Chief of Staff Ken Silliman, Cleveland Economic Development Director Tracey Nichols and David Lukas, Mayor’s Chief of Regional Development Chris Warren, Friends of the Historic Variety Theatre Board President Michael Ripich, Westown Community Development Director Chad Dasher, Westown CDC Board President Patrick Calvin, First Energy Corporation, Wagner Electric Sign Company President Darrel Wagner, The Project Group, IKS Consultants, Tony Fox of Denk Electric, Westlake Reed Leskosky Architects and Andrea Timan of GE Lighting at Nela Park.
Experience an accumulation of water in the basement. Observe anyone pouring or putting anything into catch basins than noon. Observe missing catch basin covers, manhole covers or a hole in a tree lawn. Observe a caved-in street. Observe blocked catch basin or street flooding.

For more information about The Division of Water Pollution Control, visit www.ClevelandWPC.com.

Homeowners who fail to FOLLOW WASTE COLLECTION GUIDELINES could be fined $100
Trash should be set out NO EARLIER than noon the day before your waste collection day. Containers must be returned to their storage area by noon the following day. Failure to comply with the law could result in a $100 fine.

Meet your neighbors – join your block club
Be part of the solution

The Solo Block club meets monthly to exchange information and work with Councilwoman Brady.
Block clubs address every aspect of concerns in their areas. The issues they address range from improving pathways, fighting neighborhood nuisances, writing grants for such things as community gardens, neighborhood mini-parks, and educational programs for children. To find out more about the block club in your neighborhood, contact Chad Darner at Westown CDC, 941-9262.

Vacant and abandoned structures cause safety risks for residents that live around them. That’s why Westown Community Development Corporation (WCDC) along with Councilwoman Dona Brady have been working for the last 10 years to identify and keep an inventory of all vacant properties in Ward 17. Special efforts are made to identify potential new occupants and rehabbers to acquire and restore these homes in order to keep our neighborhoods stable. The good news is that of the 15,000 vacant and abandoned homes in the City of Cleveland only 150 are located in our ward. In the worst case scenarios, as a last resort, when a home or building is deemed to be beyond repair, city inspectors are asked to condemn the structures and prepare them for demolition. One of the biggest obstacles we face when trying to abate a nuisance property is that of ownership. In some cases banks and private owners are unable to be located and cause a prolonged process which is unacceptable, but must be handled through a slow legal process. While we work toward eliminating each nuisance property on an individual basis, the staff at WCDC and court community service workers maintain the properties by cutting lawns and performing general clean up.

The City of Cleveland maintains a complaint intake center for residents to report abandoned and unkempt houses in their neighborhoods. The hotline number is 664-2007 and is staffed Mondays through Fridays from 9 am and 3 pm. Complaints may also be filed online at bhcomplaint@city.cleveland.oh.us 24 hours a day. Vacant properties should also be reported to Peggy Kearse, WCDC Housing Director at 941-9262 or sent to pkearsey@westowncdc.org.

Resources for Property Owners

Dominion’s Line Protection Program
Protect yourself from unexpected, costly repairs

Our aging housing stock also has aging sewer, water and gas lines. It is the homeowner’s responsibility to repair any broken lines from the connection in the home to the curb.
With the onset of the rainy season, the possibilities of problems increase. Dominion East Ohio has a program that permits homeowners to pay a monthly fee to reduce or avoid the cost of repairing or replacing a broken line. However, your protection does not begin until you sign up and they receive your first payment.

Inquire today!
Call Dominion Products and Services at 1-800-562-8419

Water back up in your basement? Notify the Division of Water Pollution with sewer issues

The Division of Water Pollution Control (WPC) is responsible for managing the sanitary sewage and stormwater collection system in Cleveland. If water backs up into your basement, you should notify WPC to investigate the problem. If it is determined that no problem exists between the curb and main sewer line, the property owner is then responsible for hiring a licensed and bonded plumber to check connections on the property.

Contact the WPC Customer Service Unit if you:
• Experience an accumulation of water in the basement.
• Observe a blocked catch basin or street flooding.
• Observe a damaged catch basin.
• Observe missing catch basin covers, manhole covers or broken grates.

• Observe a caved-in street.
• Observe a hole in a tree lawn.
• Observe anyone pouring or putting anything into catch basins or sewers. You also can report illegal dumping into catch basins by calling (216) 664-2007.

Water Pollution Control’s Customer Service Unit can be reached at 216-664-2511. Hours are Monday - Friday, 8 am - 7 pm and Saturday and Sunday, 9 am to 7 pm. For after hours emergency service call 664-2000.

For more information about The Division of Water Pollution Control, visit www.ClevelandWPC.com.
Crime surveillance cameras coming to Ward 17

Councilwoman Dona Brady funds Homeland Security cameras to improve safety and deter crime in our community

In 2007 the Cleveland Department of Public Safety purchased four cameras for a pilot program to work in concert with the Cleveland Police and Homeland Security. In addition to using these cameras for real-time emergency surveillance, the cameras record vital information on the scene of an incident. The images are broadcast to the Cleveland Police Video Management Center for remote viewing and recording for safety and security programming, and emergency planning and response capabilities.

Currently, the cameras are located in the downtown area. They can be spotted by their flashing blue LED light and Cleveland Police logo. The cameras record video continuously on a 24-7 basis so that recorded incidents can be accessed by police to aid in solving crimes. The cameras record video approximately four blocks in every direction. They are so powerful that they can zoom in on individuals and activities close enough to identify criminals.

Councilwoman Dona Brady has been waiting to participate in this program in order to increase safety in our ward. She seized this opportunity and allocated funds to purchase the first phase of Homeland Security Cameras for Ward 17.

Currently Councilwoman Brady is limited to locating cameras south of Lorain Avenue due to the need for these wireless cameras to be within range of tower such as the one at the 1st district police station. In the future, these cameras can be relocated to other locations. Phase 1 locations are: Lorain Avenue at W. 130th, W. 125th and W. 117th; Bellaire Road at Leela and W. 120th; W. 107th Street and Thrush; Bosworth and Thrush; Halloran Park, Worthington Park and Brookfield Park. Councilwoman Brady intends to add more cameras as towers become available.

Nuisance Neighbors?
Call the 1st District CSU, 623-2503

The Nuisance Abatement Law sponsored by Councilwoman Brady has improved behavior in Ward 17. Last summer, diligent neighbors continually called the police Community Service Unit (CSU) until many of these properties were declared nuisances.

The city notifies property owners when three nuisance violations are documented in a 60 day period. Examples of nuisance activities include loud noise or music, groups of youth out after curfew, basketball hoops in the street or public right of way and disorderly conduct.

After the director of public safety notifies an owner that he has declared a property a nuisance, the owner is charged $100 for each subsequent visit until the nuisance is abated.

Brady has improved behavior in Ward 17. Last summer, diligent neighbors continually called the police Community Service Unit until many of these properties were declared nuisances.

Councilwoman Brady discusses ways to eliminate nuisance activity during a Safety Committee meeting.

Residents who are experiencing a nuisance neighbor or establishment should call the 1

Police Community Service Unit at 623-2503 and the non-emergency police dispatch at

The more calls you and your neighbors make the more likely it is that the nuisance will be resolved.

Ward 17 Major Road CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

CLIFTON BLVD. Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority’s $7.5 million Clifton Blvd. project will go out to bid this spring. Construction is anticipated to commence this summer. The scope of work includes, but is not limited to, new permanent bus stations, repaved roadway with new concrete bus pads, landscaped median, sidewalks where necessary, and streetcaping. The duration of this project is 12 months.

LORAIN AVE. The 56 million Lorain Avenue Resurfacing Project includes asphalt resurfacing, removal and replacement of curbs, sidewalks and drive aprons, installation of concrete bus pads, ADA compliant curb ramps and new catch basins and storm sewers, and the installation of new traffic signals. The design of this project will be awarded in July. Construction is expected to start this September and concluded in May 2014.

TRASKETT RD. The project for the 5.5 million Traskett Rd. project will be awarded in July. Construction is to proceed in late spring 2015 and conclude in summer 2016.

Graffiti & Pothole Hotline: 664-2511

If you see graffiti or a pothole please get an exact address or location and call the HOTLINE.

By working together we can keep Ward 17 clean and safe.

Do you have neighborhood safety concerns?
Speak directly with Commander McCartney and his staff at the 1st District Community Relations Meeting

First Thursday of Each Month at 7:00 pm
St. Ignatius of Antioch Church • 11025 Lorain Avenue

Minor’s Nighttime Curfew & Ages

9:30 pm to 6:00 am - 13 to 14 years old
11:00 pm to 6:00 am - 15 & 16 years old
Midnight to 6:00 am - 17 years old

When walking your dog on any pedestrian area, park or private property, you must bag and properly discard your dog’s waste (City Ordinance 603.041). Why is it so important? When it rains, bacteria from dog droppings can impact our groundwater, streams, and lake. Besides, it’s simply the polite thing to do when walking your dog and it’s the law!

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Alba Fresh Market, the newest destination on the tour of international cuisine in Ward 17, will open its doors on May 15, 2013. Located at 3353 W. 117th Street (just south of Lorain Avenue), Alba Fresh Market will be open 7 days a week; 9 am-8 pm on Monday-Thursday and Sunday, and 9 am-9 pm Friday-Saturday. Free off-street parking is available just south of the building.

Attention Gardeners: YOU CAN COMPOST!

The new Save-A-Lot grocery store opening has been postponed to this summer due to the sale of the Westown Square Shopping Center. The new owners stated that Save-A-Lot has submitted their drawings to the Cleveland Department of Building and Housing for approval so they can begin interior design changes and secure their occupancy permit. It's been a long time coming, but the empty Giant Eagle space in Westown Square will finally re-open as an 18,000 square foot grocery store.

Save-A-Lot Update

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Councilwoman Dona Brady supports affordable transportation for seniors

Ward 17 seniors can meet their transportation needs through the Senior Transportation Connection (STC). The program serves people 60 years of age or older who have limited options for transportation. The Senior Transportation Connection provides two, one-way trips per week to eligible riders.

ABOUT THE SERVICE:

• FIRST-TIME RIDERS must call the Cleveland Department of Aging at 216-664-2833
• Registered riders must call 800-983-4782 to schedule a trip
• Service is available Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
• A fare of $1 per one-way trip will be charged. Drivers are not permitted to make change on the van or accept tips

This program is provided by the Senior Transportation Connection and is sponsored by Councilwoman Dona Brady and the City of Cleveland.

SUMMER FUN at Halloran Park

Children of all ages looking for fun and entertainment can spend the summer at Halloran Park participating in a variety of activities! They can choose from mini league baseball, indoor soccer, dodge ball, T-ball, youth outdoors club, book club, cooking classes and much more! All programs are free of charge and available for registration beginning April 6, 2013.

Free Breakfast and Lunch Program

Halloran will also be serving FREE breakfast at 10 am and lunch at Noon, Monday through Friday. Meals are available to youth up to the age of 18 on a first come, first serve basis. For more information call Halloran at 664-4187.

Water Complex

The outdoor pool, water playground, slide and spray basin will open for the summer season on June 15, 2013.