

# NEW *and* Affordable Living in the Central Neighborhood

Now that summer is drawing to a close, the East Central Townhomes are ready for occupancy! Thanks to funding from the City of Cleveland Department of Community Development and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, BBC recently spearheaded a dramatic renovation of this century-old row house building on the corner of East 73rd Street and Central Avenue. BBC sincerely thanks Ward 5 Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland and State Senator Shirley Smith for their support of this project.

The East Central Townhomes are the latest in a series of improvements made to the area. In partnership with the Cleveland Housing Network, BBC has already built twenty-six new homes on East 73rd since 2002, and has also worked to get abandoned and blighted buildings demolished. In 2010, BBC secured resources for and worked with residents to coordinate the construction of a new KaBOOM! playground just down the street.

The townhomes are available for rent by low to moderate-income families. Each unit has three bedrooms, one full bath, and one half-bath. Amenities include new porches, basements, Internet, security systems, and new appliances.

In addition to the East Central Townhomes, a second housing development is now under construction at St. John's Village West, located between Central and Cedar Avenues and East 36th and 40th Streets. This development consists of forty lease-to-purchase single family homes and will be made available to income-eligible individuals and families on a rental basis with the opportunity to purchase at the end of fifteen years. Again, BBC would like to thank the City of Cleveland Department of Community Development and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency for providing the resources to make these projects a reality.

If interested in leasing one of these housing units, please contact BBC's office at 216.341.1455. Applications are available at BBC's office and website at [www.bbcdevelopment.org](http://www.bbcdevelopment.org).

-Emily Wheeler



## SMALL GRANT REBATE PROGRAM AVAILABLE *to* HOMEOWNERS

Do you need financial assistance to make repairs to your roof, porch, gutters, windows, or driveway? This fall, eligible residents of the Kinsman and Central neighborhoods can apply for a small grant rebate program funded by the City of Cleveland. This program rebates up to \$5,000.00 to homeowners who complete exterior rehabilitation on one to two family residential structures within a defined boundary area. To find out if you live within this boundary or for more information, call Emily Wheeler at 216.341.1455.

-Sherita Mullins

## Acts of Promise Grant Opportunity for Central Neighborhood Residents

Do you volunteer your time to work with youth in the Central neighborhood? Are you looking for resources to expand your youth programs? If you answered yes to these questions, you may be eligible to apply for a small grant through the Acts of Promise Grant Program funded by Neighborhood Connections and Sisters of Charity Foundation.

This grant program provides up to \$3,000.00 for community groups in the Central neighborhood that seek to become involved in creating and developing positive opportunities for youth. Community led groups in the Central neighborhood are eligible to apply for funding. Community members are defined as "everyday people" – residents, congregants of religious organizations, student parent organizations, merchant associations, and similar types of groups.

The Acts of Promise has five goals. Be sure to think about how your program advances one or more of the goals below.

- To encourage community members (youth, parents, grassroots groups, faith based organizations) to become involved in creating and developing positive opportunities for youth in the Central neighborhood, particularly as it relates to education, health, safety and community stability.
- To help youth organize to create positive change in Central, particularly as it relates to education, health, safety and community stability.
- To support positive relationships between youth and other community members based on equality and the valuing of everyone's contributions.
- To find and cultivate talent and leadership in the neighborhoods (youth and adults) that will become involved in creating a stronger neighborhood.
- To build positive connections between youth, adults, and grassroots groups in the Central neighborhood.

The next deadline is January 16, 2012. If you are interested in applying, visit the website at [neighborhoodgrants.org](http://neighborhoodgrants.org) or contact Joy Johnson at Burten, Bell, Carr's office at 216.341.1455.

More than six in ten homeowners delinquent in their payments are not aware of services that mortgage lenders can offer. This number increases for tenants unaware that their landlord is facing foreclosure. If you are a renter and suspect your landlord is currently in foreclosure or will be in foreclosure in the near future, make sure you follow these steps to ensure your rent money is going to the right place:

1. As long as the property you are currently residing in is habitable write a letter to your landlord expressing your concern over their foreclosure and how this might affect you.
2. After submitting the letter, wait 30 days to ensure your landlord has adequate time to respond and offer a reasonable solution.

3. If after 30 days your landlord has not responded, visit the Cuyahoga County Clerk of Courts to establish an Escrow Account to make further rent payments and to ensure your rent is going towards your lease agreement. The Clerk of Courts is located in the Justice Center, 1200 Ontario Street, 13th Floor, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

Before you pursue opening an Escrow Account, check to see if your lease and rent is current. Also, the landlord cannot be a personal relative of the tenant. If you or someone you know is facing foreclosure, please call BBC at 216.341.1455 or ESOP at 216.361.0718.

-Sherita Mullins

## Try Composting this Fall Season

Composting is becoming a popular activity for Clevelanders. Compost consists of organic materials derived from plants and some animal material that has been decomposed. Composting can turn yard waste, grass clippings, leaves and light brush into soil nutrients for your landscaping needs. It is a great disposal option for recycling, plant nutrients, saving landfill space, reducing disposal cost, helping the environment and it is rich in nutrients. This process is used in gardens, landscaping, horticulture, and agriculture.

To learn more about composting, join the Cleveland Division of Waste Collection for a composting workshop on Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at 6pm. The workshop will be held at the Cudell Recreation Center located at 1910 West Boulevard. For more information or to request a free composting bin, call Burten, Bell, Carr's office at 216.341.1455.

-Sherita Mullins

## STOP Illegal Dumping in the Kinsman and Central Neighborhoods!

Dumping is a crime! You can report it. Contractors, haulers and individuals dump tons of debris and hazardous waste on properties including vacant lots, abandoned homes, roadsides and alleys. Your help is needed to stop these violators from polluting your neighborhood. The city has a list of steps individuals may take in order to protect their health and environment and perhaps even earn a monetary reward.

**TAKE ACTION!** With a recent increase in dumping in the Kinsman neighborhood, follow these easy steps if you spot someone illegally dumping debris:

- Get a detailed description of the car license plate number, make and color
- Call the DUMP Hotline 664-DUMP (3867) with information
- Provide a detailed description of the suspect's race, height, weight (if possible)
- Record the date, time and location of the incident

### WHY REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING?

- To protect your health:
  - Decaying garbage attracts rats and other diseased rodents
  - Hazardous waste can destroy the environment
  - Spare tires can become breeding grounds for mosquitoes, which carry West Nile Virus
- To protect your investment in our neighborhoods:
  - Illegal dumping detracts from quality of life, deters potential investment and can reduce home values
- To protect your tax dollars:
  - The City spends thousands of your tax dollars every year to clean up of illegal dumping

Protect your neighborhood this fall by reporting illegal dumping. If you see it, report it!

-Sherita Mullins

## Get Ready for the Winter Weather with the Weatherization Program

The Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) is available free of charge to eligible households to help both homeowners and renters to reduce utility bills, make homes more comfortable for occupants, and keep families safe and healthy.

HWAP entails a variety of repairs and improvements to heating systems, including the installation of insulation, general tune-up of furnaces, and safety and health testing. Many houses built prior to the 1970's lack insulation, which keeps heated air from escaping homes in the winter and cold air from entering interiors, and vice versa in the summer. Additionally, HWAP contractors ensure that furnaces are working efficiently and are not emitting carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can lead to serious health impairments and even death. If necessary, furnaces will be replaced free of charge.

To be eligible to participate, applicants' household income cannot exceed \$15,315 for a one-person household. For each additional member of the household, add \$5,220 to determine the maximum income limit. The program is open to both homeowners and renters. Residents can only receive HWAP services once every ten years. For more information or to request an application, please call Burten, Bell, Carr's office at 216.341.1455.

-Jeffrey Sugalski

# Volunteer Opportunity Spotlight: HandsOn NEO

What better way to make a positive difference in your community than by volunteering your time? Several organizations and social service agencies throughout the Kinsman and Central neighborhoods are seeking dedicated volunteers to help them accomplish their missions and improve our neighborhoods. One such organization is HandsOn NEO, a group that has been dedicated to strengthening volunteerism in Northeast Ohio since 2007. The group strives "to provide barrier free opportunities for citizens, youth, and families to be the change they want to see in our communities." Becoming a volunteer with HandsOn is easy! Just follow these three steps:

1. Become a registered user at [www.handsonneo.org](http://www.handsonneo.org) or call 216.432.9390
2. Attend a new volunteer orientation
3. Sign up for volunteer opportunities!

This fall, HandsOn NEO will be one of many partners for the Cleveland State University Make a Difference Days. Make a Difference Days is Cleveland State University's commitment to support our global community through local service to our neighborhood. From October 19 – 23, groups such as BBC, nonprofit agencies, students, and faculty will commit their time to serve a Cleveland neighborhood. On October 22nd, HandsOn NEO and BBC will be volunteering at the E. 73rd Street KaBoom! Playground. Volunteers will work with the East 73rd Street Block Club with landscaping, playground maintenance and expansion, and community playtime. If you would like to volunteer at this site, call BBC's office at 216.341.1455.

Other HandsOn NEO volunteer opportunities in the Kinsman and Central neighborhoods include homework help at Garden Valley Neighborhood House and community garden support. For more information about volunteer opportunities with HandsOn NEO and BBC, call Emily Wheeler at 216.341.1455.

—Emily Wheeler

## Youth Skate Boarding at Grant Park

This past summer, a group of youth from the Central neighborhood participated in a skate boarding program taught by the Public Square Group. Funded by Ward 5 Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland, this program helped youth build new skills and confidence in skate boarding. Skaters met at Grant Park for four weeks. Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc. (BBC) proudly served as fiscal agent for this program. Skate boarding is a fun outdoor activity in which youth can participate. For more information about learning how to skate board, contact BBC at 216.341.1455, or the Public Square Group at 216-272-8603.

—Sherita Mullins



## Free Computer Classes at Cleveland Public Libraries

Would you like to improve your computer skills with programs such as Microsoft Excel, Word, Gmail, or the internet in general? You can do so by attending free computer classes through the Cleveland Public Library Computer Learning Connection. Every month the Cleveland Public Library offers free computer classes to the community. To register for a computer class, stop in at your local branch or call the Computer Learning Connection at 216.623.2980.

—Sherita Mullins



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# ON THE HORIZON

**LOOK TO THE ON THE HORIZON SECTION FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE CITY OF CLEVELAND**

## GROUNDBREAKING FOR GREEN CITY GROWERS

Join BBC, Mayor Frank Jackson, Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland, Cleveland Foundation, Green City Growers, and other dignitaries for the ground breaking of a commercial greenhouse, the newest project of the Evergreen Cooperatives. This event will be located at the corner of Kinsman Road and Ensign Avenue on October 15, 2011, at 11am. Look for the large white tent. Free parking will be available next to the site at Carey Roofing Corp., 2695 E. 55th Street. Please RSVP by October 10 to 216.615.7009 or info@CleveFdn.org.

## FREE MAMMOGRAMS AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL BREAST HEALTH CENTER

Why get a mammogram? Your chance of getting breast cancer increases with age, so the older you get, the more important it is to get a mammogram. Mammograms can find a lump before it is seen or felt. University Hospital Breast Health Center is offering FREE screening mammograms from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on October 15, 2011. Eligibility guidelines include being a woman age 40-65 with little or no insurance. To find out if you qualify or to arrange free transportation or free parking, call 216.844.3097. This initiative is provided in collaboration with Project TEMPLE, the National Breast Cancer Foundation and the Northeast Ohio Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

For information on any of our programs, call us at 216.341.1455. Follow BBC on Facebook  and Twitter 

Date	Time	Event	Location	Address
Oct. 8	8:30AM-1PM	Will Allen of Growing Power Aquaponics & Composting Workshop	Rid-All Green Partnership Growing Power Regional Outreach Training Ctr.	8129 Otter Road (Off E. 81st & Kinsman Rd.)
Oct. 8	12:00PM	Ward 5 Club Meeting	Vocational Guidance Services	2235 E. 55th Street
Oct. 12		Columbus Day - BBC's office will be open		
Oct. 17	11:00AM	Green City Growers Hydroponic Greenhouse Ground Breaking		Ensign St. & E. 55th St. near Kinsman Road
Oct. 19	6-7:30PM	Composting Clinic	Cudell Recreation Center	1910 West Boulevard
Oct. 22	2-4:30PM	CSU Make a Difference Day - Volunteer Event	KaBoom! Playground	E. 73rd Street between Central & Cedar Avenues
Oct. 25	7:00PM	3rd District Police Comm. Relations Meeting	3rd District	10600 Chester Avenue
Oct. 26	7:00PM	4th District Police Comm. Relations Meeting	Covenant Baptist Church	E. 119th St. & Kinsman Road
Nov. 6		Daylight Saving Time Ends		
Nov. 8		Election Day	Designated Polling Locations	check ward or precinct
Nov. 11		Veterans Day - BBC's office will be open		
Nov. 12	12:00PM	Ward 5 Club Meeting	Vocational Guidance Services	2235 E. 55th Street
Nov. 23	7:00PM	4th District Police Comm. Relations Meeting	Covenant Baptist Church	E. 119th St. & Kinsman Road
Nov. 24		Thanksgiving - BBC Closed		
Nov. 29	7:00PM	3rd District Police Comm. Relations Meeting	3rd District	10600 Chester Avenue
Dec. 10	12:00PM	Ward 5 Club Christmas Party	Vocational Guidance Services	2235 E. 55th Street
Dec. 15		Senior Holiday Gift Card Give-a-way	Bridgeport Place	7201 Kinsman Rd., Suite 102
Dec. 24		Christmas Eve (Observed) - BBC Closed		
Dec. 25		Christmas - BBC Closed		
Dec. 31		New Year's Eve (Observed) - BBC Closed		

## CURRENT EVENTS

If you would like to submit an event to our Current Events calendar, please contact Joy Johnson at BBC, 216.341.1455. Please call Councilwoman Cleveland's office to confirm all community meetings 216.664.2309.

*Thank You*

[www.bbcddevelopment.org](http://www.bbcdvelopment.org)

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