

# Let's Talk About It!

## Community Engagement Meetings Geared for Community Input

Have you ever wanted to just talk or shout about what was on your mind as it relates to your community? Well, if you live in the lower Kinsman or Central neighborhoods, you will have several opportunities to do just that.

Join **BBC** and local agencies that serve Central and Kinsman in a series of community meetings to discuss upcoming projects in your neighborhoods. These meetings will be an open forum for you to hear about what is going on and for you to discuss what you would like to see.

Some of the great topics up for discussion are about job openings, access to fresh and affordable food, farm business opportunities, and neighborhood beautification projects.

Join us at our next community meeting to speak your mind on Saturday, May 19, 2012, at 12pm. The meeting will be held at the Heritage View Community Room, located at 7230 Kinsman Road. For more information, call **BBC's** office at 216.341.1455.

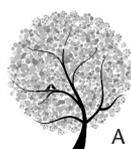
—Sherita Mullins



Community stakeholders discussing what they would like to see at the Bridgeport Café



Kinsman resident leading a discussion on proposed menu items for the new Bridgeport Café



## Orchard...coming soon to Kinsman

A colorful new orchard with fruit-bearing trees and plants will soon adorn the northwest corner of Kinsman Road and East 81st Street.

**BBC**, in partnership with the City of Cleveland Office of the Mayor and Department of Community Development, is developing a greenspace that will serve as the gateway to the Urban Agriculture Innovation Zone, a project that will reuse twenty-eight acres of desolate vacant land in the Kinsman neighborhood for farming and gardening. Rid-All Green Partnership and the Ohio State University Extension are already utilizing the first seven acres for urban agriculture.

The orchard will contain peach trees, grape arbors, and blueberry bushes, which were chosen because of the beautiful color they display in the spring, summer, and fall. An urban agriculture entrepreneur may have the opportunity to harvest the fruit in exchange for caring for the orchard.

- The centerpiece of the orchard is an attractive eighteen-foot high steel sign that will introduce passersby to the Urban Agriculture Innovation Zone and make a statement that Kinsman is a national destination for urban agriculture.
- The orchard project has been made possible through a grant from the Scotts Miracle-Gro and the US Conference of Mayors. The City of Cleveland has provided matching funds for site improvements.
- Volunteers from the community are needed the week of May 21 to primarily help install plants. A dedication ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 25. For more information about volunteering and the dedication, please call **BBC** at (216) 341-1455 or visit [bbcdevelopment.org](http://bbcdevelopment.org).

—Jeffrey Sugalski

## Summer Internships and Job Training for Youth

Looking for a job or internship this summer for your son or daughter? Contact agencies such as Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) or MyComm. These agencies offer job trainings and placement to youth. These trainings include important skills like, how to write a resume, how to dress for an interview, where to look for jobs, and how to keep a job. Once the training is complete, YOU will help support job seekers as they find a job. So get started today! For more information, contact YOU at 216.566.5445 or visit their website at [youthopportunities.org](http://youthopportunities.org).

—Patrick Kennedy



Boy Scouts of America Central Rangers leading the parade



Artist, Humble G, playing the violin

## Join us for the 7th Annual Ward 5 Community Family Festival and Parade

What better way to celebrate the historical communities in Ward 5 than to join Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland and the Central Family to Family Collaborative in the 7th Annual Ward 5 Community Family Festival and Parade. Last year, the crowd enjoyed a new artist, Humble G, who played the electric violin with Hip Hop and African fused music. This year, there will be entertainment for youth and young at heart, food, prizes, and much more!

The festival will be held on Saturday, June 23, 2012, at Friendly Inn Settlement, Inc., located at 2386 Unwin Road. It will run from 10am until 6pm. The parade, which will feature over thirty groups, will start at 12pm. It will start at the corner of East 30th and Community College and end at the festival location. The parade will proceed through the main streets in the Central neighborhood. Show support by coming outside when you hear the parade coming down your street.

There is also room for you to participate at the festival. If you would like to volunteer, purchase vendor space, or sign up as a service provider, call Sherita Mullins at 216.341.1455 or Charles Taylor at Friendly Inn at 216.431.7656.

—Patrick Kennedy



# Home Repair and Yard Resources

BBC continues to develop programs and projects for the Central and lower Kinsman neighborhoods. Improving the physical appearance of neighborhoods creates a sense of community pride. Spring is the season to begin preparation for the warm summer days ahead of us.

Throughout the spring, and summer months, BBC staff will implement the neighborhood stabilization component of BBC's strategic plan by concentrating resources in designated areas known as "Model Blocks" The Model Block program provides financial resources to homeowners to make exterior improvements to their homes and landscaping materials for their yards in targeted blocks. BBC's staff has begun to assess these areas and will begin the process of offering home and landscape improvement

products and programs to residents who live in the model block strategic investment initiative boundaries.

In addition to home and landscape improvement resources, BBC will conduct community meetings and training workshops to increase resident's skills in home maintenance and financial savings. BBC will encourage and provide assistance with establishing block clubs within the model block designated areas. And finally, BBC will promote recycling, energy efficiency practices, and healthy lifestyles.

BBC is committed to leveraging resources to make our community clean, safe, and economically viable. If you have questions or would like more information call BBC at 216.341.1455.

-Sabra Pierce-Scott



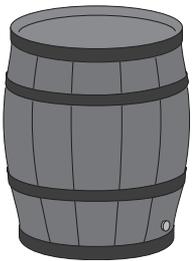
## Cleveland Energy Savers

**Are you a homeowner in the City of Cleveland?  
You may be eligible to cut your utility bills by up to 50%!**

The Cleveland Energy Savers program is offering Cleveland Homeowners the opportunity to reduce their utility bills and increase efficiency on their homes. It is a limited-time energy saving program that will provide extremely low-cost energy assessments and provide discounts up to 40% on home improvements.

Qualifying homeowners can finance deeply discounted improvements with a special low interest improvement loan through Cleveland Action to Support Housing (CASH). In order to participate in this program, simply call 216.672.3535 and schedule your home assessment. Once you've scheduled your appointment, a highly trained home energy assessor will conduct a 3-4 hour analysis of your home and inform you of; air leakage, attic insulation, exterior wall insulation, furnace efficiency, water saving devices, doors and windows, and the overall health and safety of your home giving you the best possible chance to make money saving, energy reducing improvements. Remember, this is a PILOT program with only 100 available homes repaired, so act **FAST!**

-Patrick Kennedy



## Free Rain Barrels Available to Central & Kinsman Residents

BBC is giving away free rain barrels to homeowners in the Central and Kinsman neighborhoods.

Rain barrels are great for the environment for a number of reasons. The water they collect from gutters is nutrient-rich and is much better for watering gardens and landscaping than tap water. By using rain water to water plants, rain barrels help you save on your water bill. They also help prevent flooding by diverting stormwater from the sewer system.

Installing a rain barrel is a simple process. A small plastic diverter is attached to a downspout on the back or side of the house or garage. That diverter channels water into a rain barrel for use when it is needed. A spigot is located at the bottom of the barrel, and a hose can be connected to it for easy watering. Rain barrels are available for a limited time on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please call BBC at 216.341.1455.

-Jeffrey Sugalski

**Forty new single family homes are being built for lease in the Central Neighborhood of Cleveland!!**

### St. John's Village West Family Homes

create an ideal living environment for the families who will make this place their home. Including extra storage space and energy efficient appliances including washers and dryers. All homes will be wired for alarm systems, have exterior lighting, some perimeter fencing, as well as garages equipped with motion sensor lighting.



To Apply For Your New Rental Home, Please contact Nailah Ingram at Burten Bell Carr Development, Inc. 7201 Kinsman Road, Suite 104, Cleveland, OH 44104 216-341-1455

## Paint Program Canceled for 2012

The ever popular City of Cleveland Paint Program will not be active this year because of city budget constraints and shrinking resources. As such, free paint and supplies will not be available to residents from BBC and other local development corporations as they have been in the past. While its future beyond 2012 remains uncertain, please be sure to check future issues of The Community Connector for updates about the Paint Program. For information about available home repair and improvement programs, please call BBC at 216.341.1455.

-Jeffrey Sugalski

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# 5th Annual Black History Live Step Up for your Community

On March 31, 2012, over 150 youth and their families attended BBC's 5th Annual Black History Live youth theater performance event. Each year this event celebrates Black History and the lives of youth that reside in the Central and lower Kinsman neighborhoods.

Mr. Edward "Buddy" King was awarded the Living History Award for his thirty years of unwavering dedication to empowering youth.

The theater performance "We're Here" was performed by the Cleveland School of the Arts, Lower Campus Drama Majors and Minors. It was directed by Latecia Wilson and co-directed by Ria Terra Nova-Webb.

The audience shared the experience of the unveiling of the Ward 5 Traveling Mural. Over the course of one month, students from Carl and Louis Stokes Central Academy, George Washington Carver, Anton Grdina, Marion Sterling, and the community contributed to the creation of the mural. With guidance from the Progressive Arts Alliance and Artist Martinez Gracias, this mural captured the thoughts of today's youth and creatively expressed of how they see their community. This mural will be displayed at all four participating schools and then will be installed indefinitely at the St. John's Reading Garden, located at E. 40th and Central Avenue.

BBC would like to thank everyone that attended this event including Mayor Frank Jackson and sponsors; Third Federal Savings and Loan and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. Special thanks to Principal Fatima Wright and her staff for hosting this event at the Carl and Louis Stokes Central Academy.

-Sherita Mullins



Ward 5 Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland and Living History Award Honoree, Edward "Buddy" King, after the award presentation



Monique Smith unveiling the Ward 5 Traveling Mural, titled Chasing Animation



## Learn the Steps to Homeownership

Do you have questions about the steps to homeownership? Do you own a home and need repairs? BBC has onsite housing counselors that provide assistance to individuals interested in purchasing or making repairs to their home. Counselors will work with you to create a budget, save for a down payment, select a mortgage product, find an inspector, select a contractor, provide information on predatory lending, and help you find resources to pay for repairs. Before purchasing your new home or hiring a contractor for home repairs, contact BBC at 216.341.1455. Housing counseling may save you money and help you avoid scams.

-Sherita Mullins

## BBC Recognized for its 'Community Impact' on East 73rd Street by Dominion East Ohio

Every year, Dominion East Ohio and Inside Business distinguish nonprofit organizations from throughout the Northeast Ohio region as difference makers that revitalize their communities. BBC was one of ten nonprofits selected as this year's Community Impact Awards winners among 126 organizations that submitted entries.

BBC was awarded for its work in revitalizing East 73rd Street between Cedar and Central Avenues, namely East Central Townhomes and the KaBOOM! playground. BBC staff, along with Ohio Senator Shirley Smith, Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland, and block club leader Brenda Metzger, received the award at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on March 7.

The dramatic transformation of East 73rd Street was featured in an article in the March/April 2012 issue of Inside Business. The article entitled, "Central State," can also be found online at [ibmag.com](http://ibmag.com).

A three-time winner, BBC previously received Community Impact Awards for its work on Arbor Park Place and Bridgeport Place from Dominion East Ohio.

-Jeffrey Sugalski



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

**ON THE HORIZON**

**OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN ABOUT THE GREEN CITY GROWERS COOPERATIVE**

Coming soon to the lower Kinsman neighborhood is the Green City Growers Cooperative (GCGC) greenhouse. The greenhouse is being constructed right now and will open in the winter of 2012. GCGC will grow lettuces and herbs year-round using hydroponic growing techniques rather than growing in soil. The greenhouse will have 3.25-acres of growing area and is expected to produce three million heads of lettuce and leafy greens and three hundred thousand pounds of herbs annually.

Green City Growers Cooperative is the third of the Evergreen Cooperative businesses being started in Cleveland to provide employment and build financial assets for workers who become owners of the businesses.

To see hydroponics and urban agriculture firsthand, join GCGC on a tour to the Galleria and Rid-All Green Partnerships' Regional Training Center for Will Allen's Growing Power. The tour will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2012, from 10:30am - 2:30pm. Registration is required as a bus will take participants to both sites and lunch will be provided.

To learn more about GCGC, attend the community meeting on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, at Trinity Commons, located at 2230 Euclid Avenue. The meeting will start at 6pm. No registration is required and refreshments will be served.

For more information or to register for the tour, contact Mary Donnell, Executive Director of GCGC, at 216.268.0200.

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

Date	Time	EVENT	Location	Address
April 24	7:00PM	3rd District Police Comm. Relations Mtg.	3rd District	10600 Chester Avenue
April 25	7:00PM	4th District Police Comm. Relations Mtg.	Covenant Community Church of Cleveland	3342 East 119th Street
April 28	10:30AM - 2:30PM	Hydroponic Growing Tours	Board charter bus at Trinity Commons parking lot	2230 Prospect Avenue
May 1-31		Cleveland Bicycle Month	bikecleveland.org/month	
May 8	6:00PM	Green City Growers Cooperative Comm. Mtg	Trinity Commons	2230 Prospect Avenue
May 12	12:00PM	Ward 5 Club Meeting	Vocational Guidance Services	2235 E. 55th Street
May 12	9:00AM	Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5k Walk	Cleveland Browns Stadium	100 Alfred Lerner Way
May 19	12:00PM	BBC's Community Engagement Mtg.	Heritage View Community Room	7230 Kinsman Road
May 23	7:00PM	4th District Police Comm. Relations Mtg.	Covenant Community Church of Cleveland	3342 East 119th Street
May 24	6:00PM	Area Wide Brownfield Community Mtg.	TBD	TBD
May 25	TBD	Urban Agriculture Innovation Zone Pocket Park Dedication	Northwest Corner of Kinsman Road & East 81st Street	
May 29	7:00PM	3rd District Police Comm. Relations Mtg.	3rd District	10600 Chester Avenue
June 9	10:00AM	Youth Against Violence Walk and Fair	Original Harvest Miss. Baptist Church	7101 Kinsman Road
June 9	12:00PM	Ward 5 Club Meeting	Vocational Guidance Services	2235 E. 55th Street
June 23	10AM-6PM	7th Annual Ward 5 Festival and Parade	Friendly Inn Settlement, Inc.	2386 Unwin Road
June 26	7:00PM	3rd District Police Comm. Relations Mtg.	3rd District	10600 Chester Avenue
June 27	7:00PM	4th District Police Comm. Relations Mtg.	Covenant Community Church of Cleveland	3342 East 119th Street

**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*

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