

Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc.

Celebrating Twenty Years of Serving as a Beacon for a Brighter Community

Think back to 1990. With neighborhoods in ward 5 as the poorest in Cleveland and home to nearly one-third of all of the public housing in Cuyahoga County, crime was high and neighborhood esteem was low. Housing stock in the neighborhoods were some of the oldest and most dilapidated in the city. The volatile combination of physical and social dysfunction led many vested residents to abandon their homes. These homes sat as eyesores to the community and further exacerbated severe neglect. Housing demolition helped to eliminate blight, but left once-thriving residential areas with only a fraction of homes that once stood on each street. The neighborhoods had not experienced any new construction – single-family housing or retail – in over thirty years.

Fast forward twenty years. These same neighborhoods now contain hundreds of millions of dollars of investment with new retail, newly constructed public housing and hundreds of new homes owned by committed homeowners.

Burten, Bell Carr Development, Inc. (BBC) will celebrate twenty years of service to the ward 5 community in 2010. BBC was founded in 1990 to drive community planning and development activities within Cleveland's Central, Kinsman-Union, and Garden Valley neighborhoods. Since its inception, we developed over 700 new homes and 50,000 square feet of commercial and retail space. We assisted hundreds of low-income residents to make lifelong investments in the Central and Kinsman neighborhoods through home ownership by making home ownership affordable. We provided additional low-income residents with the opportunity to lease-to-own through our lease purchase housing opportunities. We also provided attractive affordable rental opportunities for low-income residents, including seniors, with fifty units of rental housing.

BBC has worked tirelessly to help long time neighborhood residents maintain and remain in their homes. We have assisted hundreds of low income residents through our various housing repair programs, which ranged from exterior paint to weatherization to emergency home repairs.

Throughout the last twenty years, we have learned that to truly enhance a community, the work must start with its people. BBC has provided numerous life enrichment programs to area residents including financial literacy training, home buyer education, community organizing assistance, block club formation and support, health and fitness programming, youth recreation activities, youth employment opportunities, crime prevention programming and workforce development.

Without the brave and ambitious vision of our founders and the vital support of our funders, community residents, and stakeholders we would not have been able to accomplish such achievements. We are forever grateful for the sacrifices and commitment that many have made to our organization, especially for those who are no longer here with us to experience the results of their hard work. As we reflect on twenty years of service to such a dynamic community rich with history, experiencing a transformative present, and possessing a promising future, we feel privileged to play a role in the revitalization. What better time to celebrate the progress of the neighborhoods in Cleveland's ward 5 than in 2010, when the next Census will serve as proof of its successes. BBC eagerly anticipates what the next twenty years will bring.



Longwood Plaza before renovation



Arbor Park Place, formerly Longwood Plaza



Phoenix Village, developed in partnership with the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority



Colfax Model Block Club Meeting, supported by BBC Staff



East 61st Street, homes developed within the Villages of Central

Experience Corps Volunteer Opportunities for Seniors

Research tells us the power of caring adult mentors in the lives of younger children is dramatic and long reaching.

Experience Corps matches caring seniors in a lunch time mentoring program with 4th grade students in five public elementary schools across Cleveland. Seventy-nine percent of teachers surveyed last year reported that students with mentors showed improved attitude toward learning, ability to complete assignments, and confidence in their academic success. Volunteer lunch time mentors develop a relationship with one child throughout the school year that translates to improved attendance, academic attitude, social skills and self esteem for a child and a sense of fulfillment for a mentor. If you are a senior citizen who would like to volunteer or learn more, contact Carol Hasek, Mentoring Coordinator, by phone at 216.391.9500 ext. 125, or email chasek@rsvpcleveland.org.

–Courtesy of Carol Hasek, Experience Corps

Burten, Bell, Carr Launches Redesigned Website

Burten, Bell, Carr announces its new redesigned website at www.bbcdevelopment.org. This new website is user friendly and makes it easier for visitors to learn about what's happening in ward 5 and the city of Cleveland. Visit the site to learn about current and future development plans, available housing, job and volunteer opportunities and upcoming events. Feedback, blog comments, and questions are welcomed.



Cleveland City Council Ward Re-districting Slated for January 1, 2010

In the November 2008 General Election, Cleveland voters approved a ballot measure to redefine how they are represented by members of Cleveland City Council. This resulted in the reduction of wards from twenty-one to nineteen. Here are a few common questions about how residents of BBC's service area will be impacted.

What does this mean to Cleveland residents?

The number of Cleveland City Council representatives will be reduced by two beginning January 1, 2010 to reflect Cleveland's current population. Given that political districts are now required by law to be redrawn to assign one council member for every 25,000 persons, some residents will be served by a different councilperson.

Is this redistricting a one-time occurrence?

Not necessarily. The ballot measure is now a permanent amendment to the Charter of the City of Cleveland, its governing document enacted in 1913. City officials anticipate that at least two additional council seats will be eliminated in 2013 when the next round of council elections take place. An accurate measure of Cleveland's population will be derived from the 2010 US Census, and will determine if further reductions are necessary.

What are the major changes to the existing Ward 5?

- The vast majority of the Kinsman-Union neighborhood will become part of the new Ward 6 beginning January 1, 2010, and residents will have a new councilperson, Mamie Mitchell. Phyllis Cleveland was again chosen by voters as councilwoman for the new Ward 5. Ward 5 remains largely unchanged by redistricting, but gains portions of the Slavic Village neighborhood.

Where can I find maps of the new wards?

- Cleveland City Council's website has maps of new districts available for viewing, downloading, and printing. Please visit clevelandcitycouncil.org, or contact your current councilperson at 216.664.2840.

How will these changes impact the areas served by BBC?

- BBC will operate in its present footprint, the existing Ward 5, and will continue to serve the Kinsman-Union neighborhood. As in the past, programming and services will be available to residents and neighborhood revitalization activities will occur in the area bounded by Kinsman Road to the north, Union Avenue to the south, and East 88th and 102nd Streets to the west and east, respectively.

– Jeffrey Sugalski

Make the Difference in the 2010 Census Count

BBC strongly encourages all Clevelanders to participate in the U.S. Census Count. The U.S. Census Bureau counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every ten years. The 2010 results will help determine the number of seats states will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as how federal funds will be spent in communities on areas such as roads, parks, housing, schools, and public safety. For every Clevelanders not counted, Cleveland will lose about \$12,000 over ten years.

In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. When you receive yours, just answer the ten short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions from the form. Any personal data you provide remains confidential under federal law and is not shared with other government departments. For more information call 866-861-2010 or visit the Census Bureau website at: <http://www.census.gov/2010census/>.

Citizen-led Efforts Funded to Grow Fresh Produce on Vacant Lots

Three local food initiatives will soon take root in BBC's service area, transforming underutilized vacant land into flourishing pockets of urban agriculture that will provide neighborhood residents access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

These endeavors have been funded by Reimagining a More Sustainable Cleveland, a collaborative effort by several entities, including the City of Cleveland, Neighborhood Progress, Inc., and Ohio State University Extension. The group produced a detailed report of the various ways in which vacant land could potentially be used, including pocket parks, side yard expansions, rain gardens, areas for native plantings, and community and market gardens. This past summer, it made grants available for such projects to be implemented, and after an open application process, fifty-eight throughout the city were awarded funding.

In ward 5, BBC identified land for the Garden Boyz Market Garden Program, an initiative of Building Healthy Communities and St. Vincent Charity Hospital. This program will provide opportunities for young men ages thirteen to sixteen to learn skills in cultivating and vending healthy produce. Money raised by the garden, which will be situated at Cedar Avenue and East 76th Street, will remain within the community and will be utilized to purchase uniforms, books, and household supplies.

Three recent graduates of Baldwin Wallace College's Sustainability degree program will receive financial assistance to establish a market garden on Thackeray Avenue adjacent to Vocational Guidance Services. Their goal is to grow a variety of fresh vegetables, including beans, carrots, onions, radishes, tomatoes, and zucchini, to be available conveniently and affordably to neighborhood residents and others.

The Gennesareth Community Garden, which was founded in 1978 and is located at the northeast corner of East 61st Street and Quincy Avenue, will expand to include an orchard of apples, pears, cherries, blueberries, and grapes. Residents of East 59th, 61st, and 63rd Streets have maintained the garden and anticipate that the orchard will allow the youth of the community to learn where fruits come from, how they are raised, and how to care for them.

Funding from Reimagining a More Sustainable Cleveland may again be available in the future. Please check BBC's website at bbcdevelopment.org and upcoming issues of The Community Connector for news about grants for vacant land reuse and other neighborhood improvement projects.

– Jeffrey Sugalski



FREE Mortgage Assistance Available – Call Now!

Burten, Bell, Carr is proud to partner with ESOP to provide foreclosure prevention assistance to homeowners in ward 5. ESOP (Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People) formerly known as

the East Side Organizing Project, was founded in 1993 to create organized leadership around issues impacting neighborhood life. Community residents lead all of ESOP's organizing efforts, as they are in the best position to create and implement change.

Since 1999, ESOP has been at the forefront of the foreclosure crisis, and is a certified HUD Housing Counseling Agency, providing services to homeowners throughout Ohio. Due to our community organizing efforts, ESOP has made agreements with twelve national lenders to support mortgage modifications and has maintained a seventy-six percent success rate in preventing foreclosure and providing loan modification assistance.

ESOP and BBC are visiting homeowners who may be at-risk of foreclosure because of an adjustable rate mortgage, or high interest rate, and/or a subprime lender. ESOP and BBC are also reaching out to homeowners who are currently in foreclosure. If you may be at-risk of foreclosure, are currently in foreclosure, or have questions please call Burten, Bell, Carr Development Inc. at 216.341.1455 or call ESOP at 216.361.0718 or toll free at 1.877.731.ESOP (3767).

– Courtesy of James Rudyk, ESOP



The Garden Boyz take a break from the fall season garlic planting at their 35th Street garden.

TRAINING CLASSES IN URBAN AGRICULTURE

Take a class and green up your winter! OSU Extension-Cuyahoga County is now enrolling residents interested in learning the skills to grow food, build community, and engage in the local food movement with two training programs in winter 2010.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN STARTING AN URBAN FARM OR A COMMUNITY GARDEN?

To begin growing for profit, the **Market Gardener Training Program** teaches a foundation of business planning, horticulture, and marketing in twelve intensive weeks and prepares agricultural entrepreneurs to sell at markets, to restaurants, and to small grocers.

The **Dig In! Community Gardener Training Program** prepares motivated community leaders to create healthy opportunity in their

- neighborhood, school, or organization. A series of eight classes
- teaches the skills to organize the people, select and prepare the land,
- and grow delicious fruits and vegetables in a community garden.
- To register for an information session or request an application,
- call 216.429.8224 or email key.46@osu.edu.
- Want to learn more about gardening in Cuyahoga County but can't
- commit to weeks of classes? OSU Extension also offers an Urban
- Agriculture Workshop Series, providing hands-on opportunity for
- everyone to develop additional agricultural knowledge and skills
- throughout the year. Most workshops are free and all open to the
- public. For a schedule of topics and upcoming dates, visit the OSU
- Extension website at www.cuyahoga.osu.edu or call 216.429.8200
- to request a copy. –Courtesy of the Ohio State University Extension, Cuyahoga County

Like a Good Neighbor Volunteer in 2010

This is a time of giving and while many of us do not think we have much to give, we all have time and service to share. This season, make the choice to give some of your time, talents, and service to your community. Through Burten, Bell, Carr's Neighbor to Neighbor program you can choose a volunteer position that is right for you. Currently, **BBC** is looking to fill part-time positions listed below:

Men of Central, a neighborhood based mentoring group, is seeking an Administrative Assistant. This group applies for grants throughout the year and is in need of secretarial assistance.

If your knack is tutoring, there are numerous in-school and after-school tutoring programs in the Central and Kinsman-Union neighborhoods. Each tutoring opportunity has flexible hours and youth that are eager to learn.

Mentorship could save a life and there are programs in your neighborhood like the Kinsman and Central 4-H Clubs, Boys Scouts and

- Girls Scouts, and the Men of Central youth sports teams. These clubs
- expose youth to fun, educational, earth conscious and civic engagement
- activities. This is an opportunity for you to share your creativity and
- life experiences with youth and provide them with learning tools for
- their future.
- Looking for a one day or short term volunteer opportunity? Burten,
- Bell, Carr has volunteer positions available to staff special events such
- as the annual Black History Live, Job Fairs, Gift card Give-a-Ways, and
- Festivals.
- If you are interested in a volunteer position, contact Akanni Thomas at
- **BBC's** office at 216.341.1455. Information on volunteering and other
- exciting opportunities can also be viewed on **BBC's** website:
- www.bbcdevelopment.org.
- Thank you for giving back to your community! –Akanni Thomas

CELEBRATION OF THREE COMMUNITY ADVOCATES THROUGH A NEIGHBORHOOD MURAL

As you drive by East 35th Street and Cedar Avenue, look up at the wall facing the Trinity Garden. You will see a mural titled "Community Advocates in Central – Past, Present, and Future". It tells the story about the lives of three significant community advocates that greatly influenced the neighborhood throughout the last thirty years.

This mural was designed by Artist Madeleine Keller, in collaboration with artists Aaron McAvinue, Katherine Widen, Kathleen Waters, and twenty-four high school artist apprentices who took part in the Building Bridges' Summer Mural Institute. The mural initiative stemmed from the Rose Court Beautification Project, in which residents from the Central Area Community Club, and volunteers including staff of **BBC**, City Year, and students from Cleveland State University, cleaned, planted flowers and shrubs, and renamed Rose Court to Foxhall Court, in honor of two community organizers honored on the mural. This court is located along the south side of the

- building with the mural. This
- mural was made possible by
- Neighborhood Connections,
- Central Area Community
- Club, City Year, and students
- from Cleveland State University,
- Friends of Building Bridges,
- Building Bridges, Trinity
- Cathedral, Youth Opportunities
- Unlimited, Foxhall family,
- Cuyahoga Community College,
- Visiting Nurses Association and
- Burten Bell Carr Development, Inc.
- –Sherita Mullins



E. 35th Street Mural Titled "Community Advocates in Central – Past, Present, and Future"



Recycle dumpster located at Bridgeport Place parking lot

NEW RECYCLE SITE AT BRIDGEPORT PLACE

Bridgeport Place, Burten, Bell, Carr's newest commercial retail center, has been designated as a City of Cleveland recycle site. The recycle dumpster is located in the parking lot at 7201 Kinsman Road. Before you recycle, please rinse out containers. Recyclables may include plastics, aluminum, glass, card board, and paper. A list of recyclable items is available at: www.city.cleveland.oh.us. For more information about the City of Cleveland recycle program, contact the Division of Waste Collection at 216.664.3717, or **BBC's** office at 216.341.1455.

Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Incorporated

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ON THE HORIZON

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

BBC'S ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY LIVE

Black History Live (BHL) is a youth theater performance that celebrates Black History, both past and present. Youth and their families are invited to see a performance by the Cleveland School of the Arts, Lower Campus and honor a Ward 5 resident that has made a significant contribution to the community. BHL will be presented on February 27, 2010, from 2pm-4pm, at the Carl and Louis Stokes Central Academy. Refreshments and transportation will be provided. For more information, call BBC's office at 216.341.1455.

We are requesting nominations for the "Living History" award. If you would like to nominate an individual who deserves recognition for their leadership and commitment to the community, submit a brief description and/or resume along with the contact information of the nominee to 7201 Kinsman Road, Suite 104, Cleveland, OH 44104, no later than **4:00 pm on Friday, January 15, 2010.**

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS DEADLINES APPROACHING

The deadline for Neighborhood Connections, a matching grant of up to \$5,000, is Friday, February 12, 2010 at 5pm. Grantseeker orientations will be offered before the deadline. If you have questions about any aspect of this program, visit Neighborhood Connections' website at neighborhoodgrants.org, or call 216.393.4640. City Works grant applications are due in April 2010. City Works is a neighborhood matching grant of up to \$3,000 offered by the City of Cleveland. For more information about this grant, visit the City of Cleveland website at www.city.cleveland.oh.us, or call 216.664.4100. If you are interested in applying for these grants and need assistance, call BBC's office at 216.341.1455.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income individuals (generally, annual income of \$49,000 and below) who cannot prepare their own tax returns. Certified volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. VITA sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations. Most locations also offer free electronic filing. The Cleveland Central Weed and Seed, located at 7504 Cedar Avenue, will be offering VITA services starting in February 2010. For site location and hours, contact Orlando Grant at 216.341.1455. To locate the nearest VITA site, call 1.800.829.1040.

For information on any of our various programs, please call us at 216. 341.1455.

Date	Time	EVENT	Location	Address
Jan. 1		New Years Day (Office Closed)		
Jan. 9	12:00 PM	Ward 5 Club	Vocational Guidance Services	2235 E. 55th Street
Jan. 18		Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Office Closed)		
Jan. 26	7:00 PM	Third District Police Comm. Relations Mtg.	TBD	TBD
Jan. 27	7 PM-8:30 PM	Fourth District Police Comm. Relations Mtg.	Covenant Baptist Church	E. 119th Street and Kinsman Road
Jan. 27	6:00 PM	Kinsman-Union Association Mtg.	Union Library	3463 E. 93rd Street
Feb. 12	5:00PM	Neighborhood Connections Deadline	The Cleveland Foundation	1422 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1510
Feb. 13	12:00 PM	Ward 5 Club	Vocational Guidance Services	2235 E. 55th Street
Feb. 14		Valentine's Day		
Feb. 15		Presidents' Day (Office Closed)		
Feb. 23	7:00 PM	Third District Police Comm. Relations Mtg.	TBD	TBD
Feb. 24	6:00 PM	Kinsman-Union Association Mtg.	Union Library	3463 E. 93rd Street
Feb. 24	7 PM-8:30 PM	Fourth District Police Comm. Relations Mtg.	Covenant Baptist Church	E. 119th Street and Kinsman Road
Feb. 27	2 PM-4 PM	Black History Live	Carl and Louis Stokes Central Academy	2225 E. 40th Street
Mar. 12	12:00 PM	Ward 5 Club	Vocational Guidance Services	2235 E. 55th Street
Mar. 14		Daylight Saving Time Begins		
Mar. 17		St. Patrick's Day		
Mar. 24	7 PM-8:30 PM	Fourth District Police Comm. Relations Mtg.	Covenant Baptist Church	E. 119th St. and Kinsman Road
Mar. 28		Palm Sunday		
Mar. 29	7:00 PM	Third District Police Comm. Relations Mtg.	TBD	TBD
Mar. 29	6:00 PM	Kinsman-Union Association Mtg.	Union Library	3463 E. 93rd 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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