

est Park Times

IN THIS ISSUES

Puritas Elementary New Site (BELOW)
 Growing at WP Academy (P2)
Education Page (P5)
Local Cartoon (P6)
Community Board (P7)

New Site for Puritas Elementary



Photo by Jerry Masek

Assistant Principal Debbie Piazza (left) and Principal Meg Colwell are ready for a new school year at a new site -- the former St. Patrick School. About 380 students began classes Sept. 4 at the Puritas Elementary and Middle School, part of the Constellation school system.

By Jerry Masek

A new owner is breathing new life into an historic school building in the heart of West Park.

Constellation Schools bought the building at 17720 Puritas Ave. About 380 students in grades K-8 started class there Sept. 4.

The building, built in 1930, was formerly known as St. Patrick's School.

Later, as West Park Catholic Academy (WPCA), it was a joint effort of several local parishes. Because of declining enrollment, WPCA closed in June 2014. The building has been vacant since then.

It now houses the Puritas Community Elementary and Middle School. The school formerly used a commercial building at 15204 Puritas Ave., near Marc's Plaza, and moved items over the summer. The school is also leasing part of an adjacent building on the St. Patrick's campus that contains a gymnasium, cafeteria and more classrooms.

"We are just thrilled," said Principal Meg Colwell. "We now have the ability to work in a more traditional educational setting, with access to a cafeteria, gymnasium and comfortable classroom and support staff space. This will help us to optimally meet the educational needs of our students." The school is accepting students through Sept. 30 for the current academic year. Officials will begin accepting enrollment for the following school year in December. For information, call 216-688-0680, or visit www.constellationschools.com. Constellation Schools LLC, formed in 2000, now operates 15 schools with 5,000 students in Northeastern Ohio.

KAMM'S CORNER CLOCK FIXED

If you are driving or walking through the intersection of Lorain Avenue and Rocky River Drive, you may notice that the clock at Kamm's Corners is now fixed!

According to local officials, the repair was spearheaded by Kamm's Corners Development Corporation (KCDC) Board of Trustees President Todd Sheppard.

According to KCDC Executive Director Steve Lorenz, Sheppard purchased the battery. There was also additional work which needed to be completed on the clock, which included rusty contacts and some mechanical work performed by Suburban Clock & Repair in Berea.

"We had to get all the different faces

synchronized," says Lorenz. "The faces were four different times. The hands can only move so fast. To get them synched up at the same time, took quite a while. So, we looked at the one that was the farthest ahead and caught the other three up to it, then hit the master switch to make them all work in unison from there on out."



CMSD report card: increased test scores, closing achievement gaps, another record grad rate



CMSD NEWS BUREAU

CMSD's latest state report card is out, and it shows continued improvement in a number of key areas.

Among several highlights, this year's report card shows the District's graduation rate reached 74.6 percent -- yet ...continued on page 5



Fun with Learning at West Park Academy



Photo by Jessie Schoonover

(ABOVE) Rachel Elam performs at 5 Points Coffee & Tea for Open Mic Night, which was held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sept. 6, and may continue indoors for the upcoming winter months. (RIGHT)

(SEE PAGE 4)



West Park Animal Hospital expands beside Cone Zone.

Read more page 4...

Photo by the West Park Times

This photo is a picture of West Park Academy's Kindergarten class playing a letters and sounds game with teacher Maureen Leigh.

West Park Academy is seeing success in multiple areas across the board. These areas include academic achievement, the introduction of innovative and interactive programs, as well as an overall focus on character development.

According to West Park Academy Principal Michael Jaissle, he is impressed beyond belief by the overall growth of his students and staff.

"I have a pretty big vision for this school," he says. "And that's

not just to be a school, but a family center, as well. We hope to offer things like programs for people on weekends and evenings. We would like to be a place where people can go to get help to get back on their feet."

According to Jaissle, the school is also a local voting location, and it will be open for the November election polls.

Jaissle says that the school strives to be convenient for both parents and students, as well as encouraging.

...continued on page 2

Fun with Learning at West Park Academy

... continued from page 1

"I say to the students a lot: try to be 1-percent better than you were vesterday.

Those are words which aptly frame the school's core values, which are, Community. Integrity. Resilience. Excellence. These values, along with proactive teaching and instructional efforts, have turned this once failing school into one that currently carries an impressive B rating for 'overall value added' and a 'progress component grade,' as determined by the Ohio Department of Education.

"We took a one-on-one approach," Jaissle says. "All of our learners deserve full attention.³

Jaissle also says that staff at West Park Academy receive coaching and educational tools once per-week to ensure students are getting a quality education from well-informed teachers. Staff at West Park Academy are also of the belief that, if one student does not respond well to one way of teaching, it is important to try new ways of teaching in order to combat this issue and see progress.

"We take this approach to make sure that every student is getting what they need in order to learn," says Jaissle.

Jaissle also included that with all the learning going on at West Park Academy, they also like to set aside an ample amount of time to celebrate. The school will be holding several events throughout the year. For more information about the school or upcoming events, visit: https://acawestpark.com/.



BEER BABBLE: "Septemberfest"

By Jenn Wirtz, Der Braumeister Restaurant owner & beer drinker

I have been asked many times the same question: Why is Oktoberfest celebrated in September? The answer is easy enough and anticlimactic. Because the prince wanted it that way. Oktoberfest was originally a week long celebration in 1810 in honor of Prince Ludwig's marriage to the princess. Several years later, after continuing the ritual, the festivities moved to September because of weather. Bavarians could enjoy drinking, dancing, horse races, and walks through the meadows.

Now that we have that out of the way, let's talk beer. As you would expect, Munich has rules as to which beers can be served within the wall of the Oktoberfest party. The tents pitched and beers delivered are Augustinerbräu, Hacker-Pschorr, Hofbräu, Löwenbräu, Paulaner, and Spaten-Franziskaner-Bräu. The type of beer served since its start has actually changed, but the beers now synonymous with Oktoberfest are fest and marzen. Märzens are typically amber, full bodied, carry a moderate IBU (International Bittering Units) and now brewed year round. My favorite marzen is none other than Hacker-Pschorr Märzen Oktoberfest. Once only brewed in March, never in the summer, and served at the festivities. With a low carbonation, this is a smooth beer with a sweet and nutty taste. Another Märzen is the coveted Löwenbräu, considered to be the first official Oktoberfest beer. Sadly, it is no longer available here in Cleveland, but I still consider it one of the best. Some are turned off by the candied malt taste, but it is an acquired taste and is a brewery I never skip when in Munich.

The other main type is festbier, which is malty, sweet, and pale in color. My favorite, and it could be because of my quick weekend partying as a VIP in their Munich tent, is Hofbräu Oktoberfest (Clevelanders, be weary of beer with the same name, but not brewed in Germany). The only real way to drink this beer is in a Masskrug, a giant liter glass. What better way to enjoy beer than by strengthening your biceps with each sip? This Oktoberfestbier has a slightly higher ABV, at 6.3%, more than an ordinary lager, but low enough to keep drinking them at a pace that doesn't allow that last sip to get warm.

Lastly, the craft takes on Oktoberfest are endless here in America and bring a welcomed new spin on the Munich rules and regulations. Most are hoppy or higher in IBU. Oktoberfest traditionally brings beer and people together to celebrate. One thing that struck me in Germany, and within each tent, were the massive crowds of people from all over the world getting along. Singing and dancing to Neil Diamond (yes, the Germans LOVE Neil), clinking liter beers, and cheeks cherry with slight intoxication were present as every race and gender were packed tightly into tents and getting along. So...prost and a second one to Oktoberfest for bringing people, partying, beer traditions, and brewing experimentation together!

For more information, visit: http://derbrau.com/





Local Kiwanis clubs sponsor golf outing

Nine local Kiwanis clubs in Division 14 ~ including the West Park Kiwanis ~ are sponsoring a benefit golf event Sept. 17. There is still time to enter.

Registration for the scramble format event begins at 11 a.m., with a shotgun start at noon at the Oberlin Golf Club, 200 Pyle Road. Dinner begins at 5 p.m.

Cost is \$100 for golfers, or \$25 for dinner only. You can register and pay at www.kiwanis.golf. That site is also accepting payment from those who wish to sponsor a hole for \$100. Locally, proceeds benefit Connecting for Kids ~ a program that

helps children develop leadership skills, care for the community and serve together.

On the national level, proceeds benefit the Eliminate Project of the Kiwanis Children's Fund. The goal is to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, which kills more than 34,000 babies and mothers each year.

Questions? Call Cliff LaRocque, 216-319-1309, or write to cliff-larocque@sbcglobal.net.



EVENTS West Park Massotherapy celebrates 18th anniversary

On Sunday, Oct. 14, 2018, West Park Massotherapy celebrates its 18th anniversary with a Client Appreciation Day from 1-4 p.m.

The business, founded by Marilyn Valentino, began Oct. 1, 2000, at 4168 Rocky River Dr. at Valleyview Ave.

"When I started, the community was not well informed about the benefits of massotherapy as a licensed medical alternative to pain management," Valentino said. "It can help eliminate many drugs and anti-inflammatory medications. We did a lot of education, and made our clients more aware of how massotherapy can help each and every person."

"The education paid off. Over the years, our clients have been our best advertisement. Our business growth is due in a large part to client referrals. Some clients have been with me all 18 years," Valentino said. "Because of our clients, we enjoy coming to work every day. It's a pleasure helping them live better. Now, we want to thank them for helping us grow."

Since its founding, West Park Massotherapy has increased its wellness menu to include dancing, zumba, and hypnosis for personal and professional growth. Other new services are being considered.

The Oct. 14 event offers:

Free chair massages; an open house; demonstrations; door prizes; music; giveaways; and light and healthy refreshments.

Clients can also meet: Licensed massotherapists (LMT) Marilyn Valentino, Mary Zukie and Christine O'Malley

Zumba certified instructor Colleen Luciano.

Certified hypnotist Jerome Masek.

Special discounts on products and services will be available during the event.

For more information:

Visit the Facebook page for West Park Massotherapy. Visit www.westparkmassotherapy.com.



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Trash Talking??

The West Park Kiwanis will be hosting the Commissioner of the Cleveland Division of Waste, Mr. Paul F. Alcantar. The Topic is what is recyclable and what is Trash.

The Event is free, it will be held at the Cretan Party Center located at 3853 W. 168Th.St. At 7:00 P.M. on October 18Th. Free light refreshments are included.

The Event is being held to help West Park Citizens AVOID a \$100.00 fine because of having Their waste in the wrong container or packaged for "pickup". The City has Inspectors looking at curbside containers and Citations have been issued to Offenders. Take advantage of this opportunity on this important Subject !!

> TOGETHER IN COMMUNITY CLIFF LAROCQUE Sr. WEST PARK KIWANIS





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COFFEE & TEOL

West Park Animal Hospital crows about future growth

By Jerry Masek

In 2012, there were more than 157 million dogs, cats, birds and horses kept as pets in this country, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

And each year, more and more of those pets are finding their way to the West Park Animal Hospital, a landmark business in the Kamm's Corners area since 1960. It has occupied its present site since 1996.

The hospital has outgrown its present facility at 4117 Rocky River Dr., and has plans for a major expansion, says Dr. Borys Pakush, Managing Partner.

Work has already begun. To alleviate congestion from employees parking on nearby side streets, the hospital is constructing 46 parking places in a lot two doors away, next to the Cone Zone. The hospital has also purchased a former church building to its south. It plans to demolish that building, and within a year, start construction on a new, larger hospital facility on the site. When the new building is complete, the present hospital building will be demolished.

"Pet owners appreciate what we do here," Dr. Pakush said. "The number of pets we see has increased tremendously over the years. The new building expands our hospital from 7,000 square feet to 38,000 square feet, and that will allow us to greatly increase the services we offer."

Among the new services being considered:

- Bringing in other veterinarians into the hospital, allowing them to operate independent businesses in animal care specialty areas.
- A pet retail store.

Holistic pet services, and animal behavior specialists. The hospital now employs more than 100 persons. That figure is expected to increase as the expansion continues, Dr. Pakush said. West Park Animal Hospital offers after-hours urgent pet care and emergency services until 1 a.m. daily, as well as medical boarding and grooming, and special care for young and old pets. For more information, visit www.westparkanimalhospital.com, or call 216-252-4500.





Photo by Jerry Masek



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EDUCATION

CMSD report card shows increased test scores, closing achievement gaps, another record grad rate



... continued from page 1

another record high -- and students in racial, economic and other subgroups met or exceeded goals for closing achievement gaps or at least made gains.

The District's performance index, a composite of all test scores, rose from an F to a D.

CEO Eric Gordon said that while CMSD's overall grade is an F, the District's continuous improvement under The Cleveland Plan is evident in the data this year.

"We are far from where we want to be, but these results provide more evidence that our reforms are working and that we are headed in the right direction," he said.

The report card also shows: CMSD made gains from last year on 19 of 21 report card indicators.

- Math and English test scores improved in almost every tested grade. Overall, test scores increased an average of 6.7 percent from last year.
- The K-3 literacy score remained essentially flat, but because of a change in the cutoff score, the grade fell from a C to a D. The percentage of thirdgraders meeting Ohio's Third Grade Guarantee, however, increased by 4.3 points to 83.9 percent.

CMSD's four-year graduation rate grew another 2.5 percentage points this year. The rate has now climbed more than 22

points since 2011, annually setting record highs for the District for seven straight years under The Cleveland Plan.

The five-year graduation rate rose 3.5 points to 79.6 percent.

Had 11 more students in that category graduated, CMSD would have earned a D on that measure. CMSD has also increased graduation rates every year for African-American and Hispanic students

The rates now stand at 75.2 percent for African-American students and 74.3 percent for Hispanic students.

"The truest measure of performance is how well a District fares in graduating students," said Gordon. "We continue to make strides in that area."

Success in closing achievement gaps is another critical gauge of progress in Ohio school districts, and here, too, CMSD demonstrated progress.

The District met or exceeded goals or at least made gains in subgroups determined not only by race, but also by poverty, English learner status and disabilities

CMSD's improved grade in the state's performance index is significant, Gordon said, because it marks the first time CMSD has earned better than an F since the state adopted new assessments three years ago.

The report card also shows improved grades for a growing number of schools throughout the District

About a fourth of CMSD's schools received an overall grade of C or better.

Forty-three of 104 schools received at least a C for closing achievement gaps, and 62 schools made gains in their performance indexes.

Nine high schools had graduation rates above 90 percent.

The Cleveland School of Architecture and Design and Cleveland Early College High School both had rates of 100 percent.



Read each full story at www.clevelandmetroschools.org

Photo by CMSD NEWS BUREAY



The number of high-quality preschool programs in Cleveland has more than doubled in the last two years to 131, the PRE4CLE provider network says in an annual report released Wednesday.

The report also says that the number of children enrolled in high-quality preschool has jumped by 69 percent since 2013, the year before CMSD and private providers came together to form PRE4CLE. As a result, more than 4,800 children -- nearly two-thirds of those attending preschool -- are enrolled at sites designated as high quality. PRE4CLE defines high quality as earning at least three stars on the state's Step Up to Quality rating system. Preschool age is a critical time in brain formation and the development of early literacy and math skills, as well as social skills like communication and teamwork. The Cleveland Plan, a customized blueprint for education reform in the city, calls for expanding high-quality preschool so children are prepared for kindergarten and beyond.



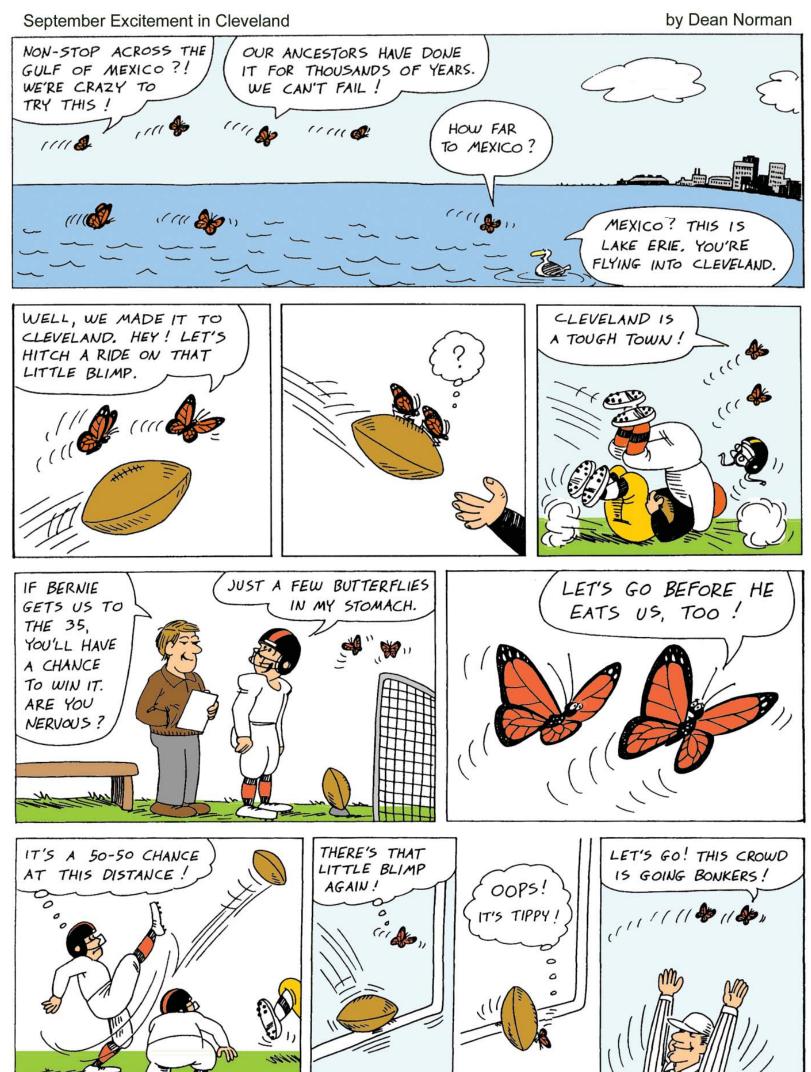
Year to bring new learning models, buildings by CMSD NEWS BUREAU CMSD is starting another school year, a year that will bring the opening of seven new buildings and the rollout of new teaching and learning strategies The majority of students will return from summer break on Monday, Aug. 13. A select group of high schools that follow year-round or extended One of those 13 schools is the calendars are already in session. new William Rainey Harper in The seven new PreK-8 buildings Old Brooklyn. Harper, which will will be ready at the start or during open with preschool through third the school year, continuing a grade and then gradually expand modernization program funded by the until it reaches up to eighth grade, state and local taxpayers. will also be the third school in the In the ongoing effort to improve District to follow the International academic achievement throughout Baccalaureate model. the District, 13 PreK-8 schools have Harper Principal Ajayi Monell is adopted one of three instructional one of nine new principals leading designs: inquiry-based learning, schools this year. Others are LaTosha leadership development Glass, Anton Grdina; Jocelyn Smith, and personalized learning using

Welcome back, CMSD students by CMSD NEWS BUREAU The school year got fully under way Monday as the majority of CMSD students returned from summer break. They joined those from a select group of high schools with year-round or extended calendars. Principals, teachers and other staff welcomed students new and old, helping them to find their classrooms and settle in. At the new William Rainey Harper School, Principal Ajayi Monell rolled out a red carpet. CARE

... read more: www.clevelandmetroschools.org



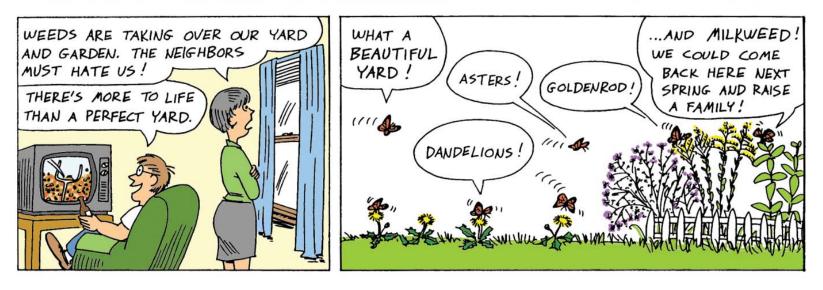
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Nature cartoons

By Dean Norman

The cartoons that The Westpark Times have printed recently are stories that were inspired by walking in the Cleveland Metroparks. I am putting together a collection of these stories in a book titled "Cleveland Metroparks Adventures," which might be published in a year or so.

The monarch butterfly story is part of a longer story about the migration of monarchs from Canada and the U.S. to Mexico. I once saw a flock of monarchs feasting on dandelions at Edgewater Park after they had flown across Lake Erie.

Two of my cartoon stories have been published by Star Bright Books, Cambridge, MA. "Spook the Halloween Cat" and "City Birds". The first is a whimsical story about a kitten with magic powers. The other is a mostly true story about the first time peregrine falcons nested on the Terminal Tower in downtown Cleveland. The two chicks were named Stars and Stripes because the day before they hatched they heard the Cleveland Orchestra play "Stars and Stripes Forever" at the Fourth of July concert on Public Square. The falcon nest was shown on TV for several weeks, and I drew what the falcon chicks did as they grew from infants to toddlers to kids, and finally became teenagers and started flying. There was no sound with the TV picture, so I had to read the falcons' lips to know what they were saying. Star Bright Books says these books are suitable for kids from ages 5 to 99. You can find them on Amazon or the publisher's website if local bookstores don't have them. I hope someday you can find "Cleveland Metroparks Adventures" at local bookstores. I think it will also be suitable for kids from ages 5 to 99.



Spook the Halloween Cat



Local author Tony Marini.

ornament

COMMUNITY Upcoming coloring contest

Local children's author Tony Marini and The West Park Times will have a local coloring contest for children of all ages. Look for Marini's character, "Pennie the Christmas Pickle," to appear in print during the months of October and November. The winner will be announced in December's issue.

Marini says he came up with the idea for the story after being a long-time fan of the famous prose, "Twas the night before Christmas..." featured in the novel A Visit from St. Nicholas, by Clement C. Moore.

"I wanted to bring a new tradition to life," says Marini. "I also wanted something that encouraged families to get together and to do activities together with their children- and of course- to read."

Pennie the Christmas Pickle comes with her own book, which can be found on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and other places locally and online, along with her own smile-inspiring, sing-along song. The book also includes activities in the back, such as recipes, song lyrics, and a way to make your own Christmas



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