

Extracurricular Activities Shaping the Future of Scholars at Anton Grdina

This past fall, BBC hired Brian Webster as the new Site Coordinator for Anton Grdina Elementary School. After his arrival, Brian and the staff of Anton Grdina planned a series of activities for scholars and their families. The Progress with Chess organization started a Chess Program at the school. Instructors come twice a week to teach scholars how to play and compete in chess. The school's goal is that scholars enjoy the game and bring home victories when they go to their various tournaments.

Anton Grdina scholars have also started a MyMedia program through MyCom in which they learn how to make a movie that will show what is going on in the Kinsman community. This program will run for ten weeks starting in the spring season.

Fall Harvest on October 30, 2017 featured games, activities, dancing, face painting, snacks, prizes, books, and fun! The scholars enjoyed winning prizes, eating cookies and wearing

- costumes. At the conclusion of the event, parents received
- books to read to their children in an effort to increase literacy
- in the Kinsman community. In total, there were over 150
- scholars and their families in attendance.

- In November, scholars and families enjoyed a Thanksgiving
- dinner featuring special guest hip hop artist Ripp Flamez and
- received free turkeys for the holiday. The Winter Wonderland
- celebration will take place on December 21, 2018. More special
- guests will be at this event as well!

- In January, Anton Grdina Elementary will host a resource fair
- for the community to see what programs are offered at the
- school and community. This academic school year has gotten
- off to a great start, and there are big things to come! For more
- information or to get involved, call BBC's office at 216.341.1455
- and ask for Brian Webster.

—Brian Webster



BBC's Community Radio Station Coming to Kinsman Neighborhood

Over the winter season, BBC will be putting on the finishing touches on its very own Community Radio Station, WOJU 95.9-FM. This unique addition to the Kinsman neighborhood will be located at Bridgeport Place, 7201 Kinsman Road Suite 102. Exciting features will include an indoor classroom and mobile broadcasting capabilities.

Created by Timothy Tramble, Sr., BBC's Executive Director, the mission of WOJU 95.9-FM is to provide an inclusive media platform that connects, engages and informs the entire community to achieve ongoing social and economic progress for all. The vision is to nurture local talent, give a voice to the community and provide educational opportunities for residents to learn the business and production sides of radio.

BBC hired Giovanni Braden-Dorsey to operate the radio station. Giovanni plans to use the radio station as a vehicle to connect people to valuable information and resources through on air broadcasting and associated social media platforms. He stated that the radio station "will address the issues and concerns of the community while allowing BBC to showcase local talent and positive music that is often unheard on radio."

WOJU 95.9-FM will be operated with the motto that people support what they help create. The community can get involved with WOJU 95.9-FM by working, volunteering, or creating material for radio programs. To receive community input, there will be a series of community meetings in the upcoming winter months. For more information or get involved with WOJU95.9-FM, call BBC's office at 216.341.1455 and ask for Giovanni Braden-Dorsey.

—Sherita Mullins



36 New Affordable Homes Coming to Colfax & Minnie in 2018

The revitalization of the Kinsman neighborhood continues with Colfax Family Homes!

Colfax Family Homes will consist of thirty-six single-family homes developed along Colfax Road (between E 69th and E 79th Streets) and Minnie Avenue. The project includes sixteen three-bedroom and twenty four-bedroom homes. Four of the homes will be ADA accessible for families in which one of the members has a disability. The homes will feature a fresh, contemporary design and will include energy-efficient and sustainable features.

Families will rent for fifteen years and have the opportunity to purchase their home for a substantially reduced price. A variety of supportive services will be available to these families to prepare them for homeownership and ensure their future success. Through a statewide competitive application process, BBC was awarded an allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. LIHTC is the most important resource in the country for creating affordable housing for low-income families and senior citizens, which means that it is highly in demand by communities and developers and difficult to receive. The City of Cleveland Department of Development has committed to providing the remaining funds. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-2018.

The plan for Colfax Family Homes came out of the community-driven planning where residents shared their wishes for new

housing to fill in vacant lots and replace substandard abandoned housing.

To fulfill this vision, BBC has long been working with Colfax and Minnie residents to lay the groundwork for a project of this magnitude to occur on their streets.

BBC helped residents organize a block club

that was able to successfully lobby for the demolition of abandoned homes. Six vacant homes were renovated by Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity in partnership with BBC. Three new greenspaces – Four Corners Orchard at E 75th Street, Hillside Community Park next to E 79th Street Blue/Green Rapid Station, and Colfax Garden – were created. BBC and its partners assisted homeowners in making home repairs.

We are not yet accepting applications for families to live in Colfax Family Homes, but please watch for an announcement in future issues of The Community Connector and our website, bbcdevelopment.org.

-Jeffrey Sugalski



Free Tax Preparation Services in the Kinsman and Central Neighborhoods



Income Tax season is fast approaching! Back again after a successful year in 2017, BBC will be offering FREE income tax preparation services in Cornucopia Place (7201 Kinsman Road, Suite 103B) starting in January 2018 through April 2018.

Why give most of your refund to a high cost tax preparer? There are many other ways you can use that EXTRA MONEY. Last year BBC helped 1,473 families save money. BBC's staff looks forward to helping more families this year, so they can put that money back into their lives in a progressive way.

Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance services are supported by The Earned Income Tax Coalition of Cuyahoga County, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., and funders such as Sisters of Charity Foundation, Third Federal Savings and Loan, and PNC Bank. To make an appointment for our sites or any free tax preparation site around Cuyahoga County, call the United Way's First Call for Help by dialing 2-1-1.

BBC is recruiting volunteers to provide quality free tax preparation to residents and to greet clients. Anyone can sign up to become a volunteer. There is no experience necessary. Attend a Coalition led training to become an IRS-certified volunteer tax preparer. Sign up today by visiting www.refundohio.org or call BBC's office and ask for Omelia Thornton at 216.341.1455 for more information.

-Omelia Thornton

Food Access Raises Everyone in Cleveland

Have you, your family or community experienced a need for better access to healthy food? If yes, there are resources available to get you connected to free or affordable healthy food. The Food Trust published a study and created an initiative called Food Access Raises Everyone (FARE). Through FARE, the Food Trust is able to assist communities in Cleveland address a range of food issues such as making healthy foods and beverages affordable, available, and a desirable choice in all neighborhoods and communities

Over this past year, funds from the Food Trust supported BBC's efforts to grow a citizen-centered approach to advance the goals of the Healthy Eating, Active Living (HEAL) initiative. This unique collaboration brings together a diverse group of institutions all working to increase the availability and demand for healthy food, creating new ways to promote physical activity, and providing avenues for economic opportunity. HEAL Network members work side by side with community residents to identify engagement strategies, projects, programs, and questions that address healthy food access.

Resident ambassadors are now leading the charge to address health and food issues in the Kinsman and Central neighborhoods. Below are the biographies of the resident ambassadors.

Darrell Dobson is a native Clevelander and has resided in the Central neighborhood for twenty-three years. He is an advocate of bicycling because he believes it promotes long life. Darrell said in a recent meeting that "bicycling gives you a sense of freedom, promotes healthy living, and a very cost effective way of transportation. Bicycling provides the opportunity for an intimate relationship with the city. You can see the changes being made around the city up close." Be on the lookout for opportunities to partner with Darrell in his upcoming work.

Renee Wren is a Central resident whose passion for community began in her first home in Garden Valley. Renee's talent and passion for the community has

presented her partnership opportunities throughout the Central and Kinsman neighborhoods over the years. Notably, Ms. Wren has worked as a Central Promise Ambassador. Ms. Wren cited her interest in Central's healthy eating, active living outcomes and the opportunity to bring best practices from her previous work as factors that drew her in this work as a HEAL Ambassador.

Vanessa Camp has lived in the Kinsman area for eleven years. She is a proud mother of four children, has ten grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. She is a retired bus operator who is passionate about helping the elderly and youth create opportunities for healthy eating and active living. "I would like to share my experiences and help others by encouraging them to eat healthy and live actively." Ms. Camp plans to work with senior adults by providing nutrition education and delivering healthy foods - dairy, fruit & vegetables, meat and bread.

To get more information about FARE or HEAL, or get involved, call BBC's office at 216.341.1455 and ask for Devin Cotten.

—Sherita Mullins



Darrell Dobson



Renee Wren



Vanessa Camp

BBC Welcomes to the Staff

Elaine Woods



In November, Elaine Woods was hired as BBC's new AmeriCorps Resident Resource Coordinator. Elaine will provide support to resident ambassadors from the Kinsman and Central neighborhoods who are looking to increase their leadership capacity while improving access to healthy foods in their communities. Elaine has twenty-two years of experience working with the Cleveland Water Department. She is a graduate of Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Elaine's passion is to help others achieve a happy, healthy, long and prosperous life. BBC welcomes Elaine to the staff.

Giovanni Braden-Dorsey



This past fall, BBC hired Giovanni Braden-Dorsey as the Operations Coordinator for the upcoming WOJU 95.9-FM, BBC's Community Radio Station. He will be responsible for daily operations.

Giovanni is a graduate of Central State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. Before he started at BBC, he worked at WCSU-FM where he was an On-Air Producer. He was raised in the Kinsman neighborhood. When asked, "How does he feel about his new position?" he stated "I am excited to help bring a platform of creativity through the form of a radio station to where I call home." BBC welcomes Giovanni to the staff.

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

Cleveland Clinic's Six Week Health Challenge

The Cleveland Clinic invited the Central/Kinsman neighborhood to participate in another six week health challenge in January 2018. The kickoff event will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2018, 5:30pm - 8:00pm. The event will be held at the Cleveland Clinic Langston Hughes Community Health & Education Center, 2390 East 79th Street (off Quincy Avenue). The challenge weeks will be Monday, January 15th through Friday, February 23, 2018. The finale event will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2018, 5:30pm - 8:00pm. The Six Week Health Challenge is a friendly health and wellness competition among the Fairfax, Glenville, Hough and Central/Kinsman neighborhoods. Each week, residents are encouraged to participate in health related activities such as; cooking classes (held in Cornucopia Place), exercise classes, line dancing and belly dancing. There are also workshops on how to get a job at Cleveland Clinic, smoking cessation and health screenings. This past year, Central/Kinsman competed twice and placed in fourth and third. BBC is asking residents of Central/Kinsman to show up strong in January and bring a win to this neighborhood. For more information, call BBC's office at 216.341.1455 and ask for Sherita Mullins.



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

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | LOCATION | ADDRESS |
|----------|---------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jan. TBA | TBA | Variety of Cooking Classes (contact BBC's office for more information) | Cornucopia Place | 7201 Kinsman Road, Suite 103b |
| Jan. 1 | | New Year's Day (Office Closed) | | |
| Jan. 9 | 4pm | Youth Cooking Classes, Every Tuesday | Cornucopia Place | 7201 Kinsman Road, Suite 103b |
| Jan. 11 | 5:30pm | Cleveland Clinic's Six Week Health Challenge Kickoff Event | Langston Hughes Building | 2390 East 79th Street |
| Jan. 13 | 12pm | Ward 5 Club Meeting | Vocational Guidance Services | 2235 East 55th Street |
| Jan. 24 | 7pm | 4th District Police Comm. Relations Meeting | Covenant Comm. Church of Clev. | 3342 East 119th Street |
| Jan. 30 | 7:00 PM | 3rd District Police Comm. Relations Meeting | 3rd District | 4501 Chester Avenue |
| Feb. TBA | TBA | Variety of Cooking Classes (contact BBC's office for more information) | Cornucopia Place | 7201 Kinsman Road, Suite 103b |
| Feb. 6 | 4pm | Youth Cooking Classes, Tuesdays | Cornucopia Place | 7201 Kinsman Road, Suite 103b |
| Feb. 10 | 12pm | Ward 5 Club Meeting | Vocational Guidance Services | 2235 East 55th Street |
| Feb. 27 | 7pm | 3rd District Police Comm. Relations Meeting | 3rd District | 4501 Chester Avenue |
| Feb. 28 | 7pm | 4th District Police Comm. Relations Meeting | Covenant Comm. Church of Clev. | 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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