Small Businesses are Eager for a Spot at the BoxSpot

The strong turn-out of small business owners looking to join BoxSpot has shown us the strong desire for high quality, low-cost space in Cleveland. BBC received ninety-seven business applications for the six available units.

After the project is built this fall, the six small businesses will use approximately 140 square feet of repurposed shipping containers. The spaces will include all of the amenities of the best retail environments in the city including large window displays, parking, and security systems. These spaces will only cost $450-$500 a month including utilities.

The incredible demand shows the potential for these types of spaces to bring back jobs and a neighborhood economy to our neighborhood on the near-east side of the city. BBC hopes to build on this momentum by connecting applicants to agencies with access to funding, business coaching, and technical support. On March 1st, BBC hosted a Resource Fair with the support of Cuyahoga Community College, Metro Campus with over twenty agency representatives and more than 130 businesses and members of the community.

On April 5th, BBC will host the BoxSpot Final Event, where the top 10 businesses will showcase the services and products they want to bring to the neighborhood. The event will be open to the public for a chance to meet the people aspiring to grow their business in Kinsman. Please join us! If you are interested in the event contact, BBC’s office and speak to Erick Rodriguez at 216.341.1455 for more information.

–Erick Rodriguez

Only Two Homes Left!

Homes on Stanley Tolliver Avenue are selling fast! BBC now only has one home remaining for sale on Stanley Tolliver Ave., located at 3853. One home remains on Community College Avenue at 3645. Both homes are BRAND NEW and have property tax abatement and available down payment assistance for those who qualify. Call Joy Johnson or Larry LaPrade at BBC today for more information on the last two homes for sale in Central. Both can be reached at 216.341.1455.

–Joy Johnson
The Fix is On! Home Repair Loans Available

Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland, the only licensed nonprofit lender in the State of Ohio, is offering home repair loans of up to $60,000 for qualified applicants, and neither credit score nor current home equity are determinants. Projects range from a new roof or driveway to installation of accommodations for seniors or the disabled. Our lending team will work with customers to accommodate their specific financial situations, including multiple term and payment options. All loans are originated, underwritten, and serviced through NHS of Greater Cleveland.

To help borrowers ensure quality and legitimacy of repair work, NHS of Greater Cleveland provides construction management services so that your safety comes first and that the contractor you select will help to meet your needs. January and February are ideal to undertake repairs or renovations. Contractors have greater availability during the winter months, and you are more likely to secure the timeframe that best works for you. Not sure how to select a contractor or where to begin? We can help with that, too. Contact Mary Neighswander to discuss your needs at 216.458.4663 or mneighswander@nhscleveland.org.

If you have not yet resolved to fix that leaky roof, replace your kitchen floor, or install that new shower, now is the time. **Please note that this program may require applicants to qualify based on income, age, occupancy, and/or other criteria.**

1. Own and occupy your home in the Kinsman, Central, or Buckeye neighborhoods; 2. Meet household income guidelines; 3. Seniors age 55 and over are first priority; and 4. Request a home repair that meets BBC and the State of Ohio’s definition of decent, safe, and sanitary.

Please note that this program may require applicants to qualify based on income, age, occupancy, and/or other criteria. For more information on this and other programs that may be available, contact Larry LaPrade or Chevante’ Kimbrough at BBC at 216.341.1455.

-Larry LaPrade

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**Home Repair Assistance Program for Seniors**

Every season brings an opportunity to make needed repairs to your home. Through the support of the McGregor Foundation and Ohio Department of Developmental Services, BBC is able to assist seniors with our Home Repair Assistance Program (HRAP). Through HRAP, low- to middle-income residents in need of interior and exterior repairs to their home may be eligible for help. BBC administers all phases of the program, including the application process, writing of job specs, identification and hiring of a suitable contractor, supervision of repair work, and closing. To be eligible, program requirements are:

1. Own and occupy your home in the Kinsman, Central, or Buckeye neighborhoods; 2. Meet household income guidelines; 3. Seniors age 55 and over are first priority; and 4. Request a home repair that meets BBC and the State of Ohio’s definition of decent, safe, and sanitary.

Please note that this program may require applicants to qualify based on income, age, occupancy, and/or other criteria. For more information on this and other programs that may be available, contact Larry LaPrade or Chevante’ Kimbrough at BBC at 216.341.1455.

-Larry LaPrade

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**BBC Welcomes NEW STAFF**

Brandon Patterson was hired as BBC’s Community Outreach Coordinator for the Buckeye neighborhood. He is responsible for working with Buckeye residents, community leaders and stakeholders to ensure that Buckeye is a hub of revitalization and development. Brandon is a graduate of Miami University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Communication. Before joining the BBC team, he lived in Chicago where he taught high school history and led community organizing efforts around large social justice issues. As a Buckeye-Shaker native, Brandon is beyond excited to be back in Cleveland where he can support his hometown and build a better and brighter future for his neighbors.

Chevante’ Kimbrough was hired as BBC’s Real Estate Development Specialist for the Buckeye Neighborhood. She is responsible for pursuing real estate projects, providing support for businesses and supporting the Housing Repair Assistance Program (HRAP). Chevante’ is a graduate of Cleveland State University (CSU) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies. She will be graduating from CSU in December with a Master of Public Administration degree. She hopes to excel in her role by helping Buckeye become a thriving neighborhood.
Ways Residents can get involved

WOVU 95.9 FM is now on the air twenty-four hours a day. Tune in to hear a variety of talk radio programs as well as music from a range of genres. There are also several ways to get involved with the radio station.

- **Community Radio Course:** WOVU 95.9 FM is looking to create original talk radio programs. To do this, the radio station is offering a community radio course in which people will learn radio regulations, rules of WOVU 95.9 FM, and what it takes to produce content. After passing an exam, programmers will get hands-on training on radio equipment and learn how to produce shows.

- **Volunteers:** WOVU 95.9 FM is looking for volunteers to help with the day-to-day operations of the radio station, from board operating to disc jockeying. Training opportunities are available. The main requirement is to be willing to learn and gain new skills.

- **Community Focus Groups:** WOVU 95.9 FM is requesting feedback from the community regarding show content and music. On the horizon are community focus groups held at the radio station and will be open to the public.

For more information, or to get involved with WOVU 95.9 FM, call the radio station at 216.271.0959 and ask for Giovonni Braden-Dorsey. You can also email the radio station at programs@wovu.org.

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Weather Safety Opportunities Come to Cleveland

As we begin to face the effects of climate change, it is suspected that the weather will become more unpredictable and severe: higher temperatures, stronger storms, and more events that will affect our daily lives. While we are all doing our part to lessen our carbon footprint, we must also prepare for weather emergencies. By preparing, we can ensure that we are staying safe in the best way possible throughout severe weather events. There are two such options coming to Cleveland to keep the communities safe!

CornUcopia Place will be a pilot cooling center this summer. In the event of an extreme heat day, CornUcopia Place will open up to be a safe haven away from the heat, providing shelter, water, and air conditioning to those who cannot receive it elsewhere. Typically, such cooling centers would be held in public places such as recreational facilities, but since Kinsman does not have one within walking distance, CornUcopia Place has become the neighborhood’s best option for safety against extreme hot temperatures. On such days, BBC will announce the opening of the cooling center for those to come in and take refuge from the heat between 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Another such opportunity is through Cleveland’s CodeRED service. CodeRED is a mass alert system that will contact participants in the event of severe weather. This system will let users know if there is anything from thunderstorm warnings, to flood alerts, to snow storm advisories. To sign up to receive these alerts go to www.city.cleveland.oh.us and click on the CodeRED button on the right-hand side of the page. If a computer is not handy, come into the BBC office to fill out a form!

Staying safe is about knowing what is happening and having a place to go when something is happening. CodeRED offers advance knowledge to users that severe weather is coming into the area. Once you know severe weather is coming, you have to take steps to ensure safety. Opening CornUcopia Place as a cooling center allows for residents to have a place within their neighborhood to seek out safety from the extreme temperatures. For more information on either of these great resources, contact Erick Rodriguez at BBC at 216.341.1455.

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COOLING CENTER
OPEN TODAY 8AM - 8PM
STAY COOL HERE

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Resilient Cleveland STAY COOL HERE
The FreshLo: One Garden Valley Initiative

Environmental Health Watch is spearheading an initiative that combines food, art and community to drive revitalization for the Kinsman neighborhood. The FreshLo: One Garden Valley Initiative is a 12-week program for 14-18 year old youth. It will run from June 11th through mid-August, with orientation in May. Youth will be expected to participate in program activities from 10am-4pm, Monday through Friday. Youth that live in the Central/Kinsman neighborhood are strongly encouraged to participate. There is a weekly stipend offered to each individual student, and lunch will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Foreman at kim.foreman@ehw.org or 216-961-4646 ext. 104 or Wyndi Moore at wyndi.moore@gmail.com. For more information about FreshLo, visit: https://kresge.org/freshlo.

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