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A Tremont Neighborhood Newspaper by and for Tremongers | [TheTremonger.org](http://TheTremonger.org)



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*"It's very encouraging," Nyree said, impressed with the volunteer turnout. "And I'm happy just to give back to the community and see other people have the same ideas—coming out and helping to clean up the city. Nobody wants to walk around and see trash everywhere."*

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photo by Rich Weiss

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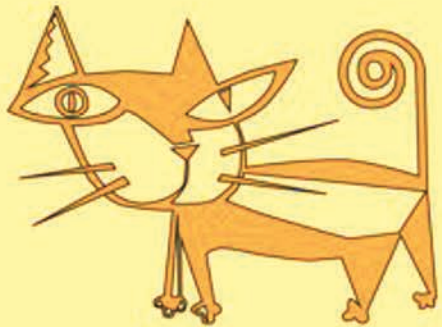
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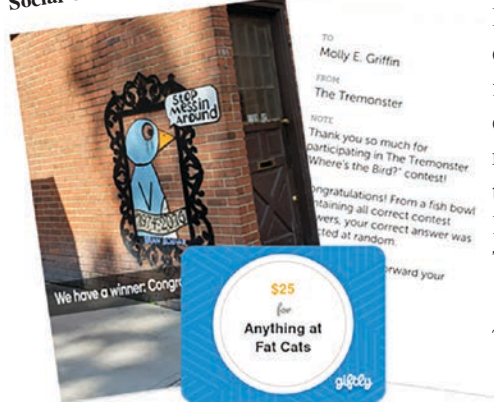
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## We Have a 'Where's the Bird' Contest Winner!

Where's the Bird? "...on the side of Prosperity Social Club, located at 1109 Starkweather Ave"



Dear Molly E. Griffin,  
Thank you so much for participating in *The Tremonter* "Where's the Bird?" contest. Congratulations! Your correct answer was selected at random from a fish bowl containing all correct contest answers. Good eye! You will receive your prize, a **\$25 gift certificate to Fat Cats**, by email on May 11th. Keep looking out for the quirkiest things about Tremont!

Yours,  
~The Tremonter



## TREMONSTER CONTEST: Where's the Bird?



Submit your answer to win a Fat Cats gift certificate:



Scan to enter!  
...or email or snail mail!

Where's the Bird? Submit your answer to win a Fat Cats gift certificate.

Thank you to all who entered last issue's "Where's the Bird?" contest! Our winner guessed last issue's location correctly:

"...on the side of Prosperity Social Club, located at 1109 Starkweather Ave."

If you think you know the mystery location of this issue's bird mural (above), submit your answer: P.O. Box 6161, Cleveland, OH, 44101 or email it: [TheTremonter@TheTremonter.org](mailto:TheTremonter@TheTremonter.org).

If your correct answer is selected at random, you will be awarded our prize in the next issue of *The Tremonter*:

A **\$25 gift certificate to Fat Cats!**

\*Submit your answer to win today!\*



The Tremonter is a newspaper by and for the neighborhood of Tremont in Cleveland, Ohio. A Tremonter is anyone who loves our shared neighborhood of Tremont. Any Tremonter may submit content for consideration by the 15th of each month to:

[TheTremonter@TheTremonter.org](mailto:TheTremonter@TheTremonter.org)

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Thanks to **Scott Radke**, for the contribution of our logo character for *The Tremonter*.  
[ScottRadkeArt.com](http://ScottRadkeArt.com)

Mascot: Abbey

Our ongoing thanks to the below Tremonters for their constant help, advice and support:

Ricardo Sandoval, Bob & Nancy Holcepl, Heather Haviland, Sherman DeLozier, Mike Griffin, Megan Griffin, Becca Riker, Mike D'Amico, Rhonda Crowder, Lila Mills, Lawrence Caswell, Richard T. Andrews, Stefanie Murray, Cole Goins, Keri November, Emily Kelly, and Chuck Hoven.

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# Riversweep Beautifies Tremont



Above: RiverSweeper Lytrice demonstrated her form hoisting a trash bag into the program's garbage flatbed as it paused along its Quigley Ave. route.

Photos by The Tremontster

### A special report by *The Tremontster*

RiverSweep, the one-day spring cleanup program started by Canalway Partners in 1989, is a popular annual community event that protects the Cuyahoga River by removing garbage from the entire Cuyahoga River Corridor.

*The Tremontster* met two volunteers during the event, Nyree and her friend, Lytrice, who struck a power pose with her full trash bag as Nyree looked on.

"It's very encouraging," Nyree said, impressed with the volunteer turnout.

"And I'm happy just to give back to the community and see other people have the same ideas—coming out and helping to clean up the city. Nobody wants to walk around and see trash everywhere."

According to RiverSweep's website, over the course of 33 years, 20,000 volunteers have helped recycle 24,757 illegally discarded tires and pick up nearly 1.5 million pounds of trash. The cleanup effort has helped communities reduce public dumping and has encouraged the creation of parks and trails.

Participation begins by simply signing up for a cleanup location from a list of clean-up sites.

On the morning of Saturday, May 6th, volunteers gathered at RiverSweep meeting sites all along the Cuyahoga River, including Tremont, and were provided a RiverSweep t-shirt, gloves, and gear from Canalway Partners to use while cleaning.

"Year after year, RiverSweep volunteers pour their hearts into their communities," said Mera Cardenas, Executive Director of Canalway Partners. "As a result, we've been able to convert areas that were once abused dumping grounds into parks and trails. Canal Basin in the Flats, which is currently under construction to become a trailhead, and the Camp Cleveland pocket park in Tremont were both once illegal dump sites and are now parts of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail."

Mera added, "Cleaning public areas helps people see the potential in them. We're proud to have played a part in returning greenspaces to the community and are constantly looking to support communities across the National Heritage Area."

The impact of RiverSweep includes more than 400 acres of new greenspace cleaned, conserved, and open to the public along with an additional 14 miles of hiking trails.

Below: RiverSweep 2023 attracted quite a crowd.



A beautiful day for RiverSweeping along the steelyard.



Cuyahoga County Employees volunteered in large numbers at RiverSweep 2023.

**CIVILIZATION**  
*a café in the european tradition*  
 Where Tremont became known for coffee • West 11<sup>th</sup> and Kenilworth on Lincoln Park

# Tremont West Annual Meeting 5/18



## 2023 Tremont West Membership Meeting and Board Elections May 18

This year's meeting will be held **Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 2023 at Scranton Road Bible Church (3095 Scranton Road) at 6 pm.**

Please join us for a light dinner followed by the Annual Meeting. If you cannot join us we will be streaming the meeting at [facebook.com/tremontwest](https://facebook.com/tremontwest). Additionally, in order to get an accurate count of who will be attending the meeting, if possible, please register for the meeting at the following: <https://bit.ly/2023twdc>. Per a change to the Code of Regulations in 2021, Tremont West is now able to have early voting.

**Early voting is available Monday May 8<sup>th</sup> (9 am) through Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (2 pm) at the offices of Tremont West Development Corporation, 2406 Professor Avenue.**

There will be a drop off available 24/7 on the smaller side porch of 2406 Professor. Please place your folded ballot in the slot. Each ballot will have a number assigned to each individual member. Once the ballot is received your name and number will be verified. In order to ensure voting is confidential, votes will not be tallied until the day of the annual meeting and the assigned ballot number will only be used to ensure one vote per member. If a ballot is lost, please contact Tremont West to schedule a time to receive a replacement ballot, at which time the original assigned ballot number will be discarded from use. Note: should a quorum of votes not be reached by the end of the annual meeting, the Board may exercise emergency authorization powers to extend voting until the close of business on the following Monday, May 22.

This year, there is one candidate for the Board President position and six candidates for five Board of Directors seats. The candidates are listed below.

### Candidate(s) for Board President

- Seronica Powell

### Candidates for Board of Directors

- Jason Adams
- Carolyn Bentley
- Fred Calatrello
- Dan Imfeld
- Kate O'Neil
- Jason Petroff

We hope you will take some time to closely consider the qualifications of each candidate prior to attending the meeting. Your vote is extremely important. If you have any questions, please contact [coryriordan@tremontwest.org](mailto:coryriordan@tremontwest.org)

### Candidate for Board President

**SERONICA POWELL** (see Seronica's interview with Mayor Bibb on page 6)

**Please describe your involvement with the Tremont West Development Corporation or other Tremont clubs and activities during the last 5 years:** I am the current Board President for TWDC and have been a Board member for the past 6 years. I have also been an active member of the Duck Island block club for many years and now an active member of the Lincoln Heights block club.

**Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years:** I am the Director Finance at The Center for Black Health, a national public health organization. I have worked for the organization for the past 3+ years. Prior to my employment with The Center, I have worked for several different

local non-profit social service agencies. I have served on the board of TWDC for the past 6 years as well as the Near West Land Trust, TechBOOM, and CHN Partnership Board over the past few years.

**Please describe any other memberships on boards or committees that you have had during the last 5 years (such as non-profit organizations, professional associations or city or county government):** TWDC Board, Finance and Executive Committee. Near West Land Trust and CHN Partnership Board

**Please describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation:** As far as skills and expertise that I would bring to the board, it is my 20+ years of experience within the social service arena with a focus in property management, operations, finance, human resource, and project management.

**Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation:** Since I have resided in the Duck Island community for over 10 years with my family, I have seen progressive change in a positive direction and have tried to support it as much as possible. Therefore, I wish to further contribute to the community by serving as a board member and President of Tremont West Development Corporation. Due to my knowledge and experience, I believe I can offer continued progression in the right direction.

**Statement:** I am a mother of two, LaKendria and Joseph. I have been a long-term resident in the Tremont Neighborhood, Duck Island community for 14+ years and most recently the Lincoln Heights community. My children grew up here and attended the local school systems. I am passionate about the community. I have worked in both social service and public health and enjoy helping to make whatever community I am apart of better. I look forward to serving as the President of TWDC board.

**The Tremontster: How important is affordable housing in Tremont, and do you feel we have the right amount, we need less, or we need more?**

Affordable housing is incredibly important in Tremont, as it is in many communities across Cleveland. The availability of affordable housing can have a significant impact on the overall quality of life in a community, particularly for lower-income residents who may struggle to find safe and stable housing. Therefore, I don't think any neighborhood should be one of anything because when people are boxed off, you lose the opportunity for people to have access to different things. Ultimately, ensuring that there is an adequate supply of affordable housing in Tremont is important for creating a more equitable and livable community for all residents. As for having the right amount of housing, the ideal ratio of affordable housing in a community can depend on a variety of factors such as local housing needs, demographics, and economic conditions. In my opinion, we should strive for 25% -30% of the housing market to be affordable. Keeping in mind that "affordable housing" can mean different things to different people based on the economic status.

**The Tremontster: You may have recently visited Tremont block clubs and answered questions-how important are block clubs to Tremont?**

For me, block clubs are very important just for the fact that you get people's opinions and input on what they would like to see in the community in real time. Most block clubs meet at least once a month to discuss the development of Tremont. The block clubs also play a valuable role in bringing together residents and fostering a sense of community. They can provide a forum for residents to discuss common concerns and work together to address them, and they can serve as a platform for organizing community events, such as clean-up days, block parties, and other social activities. Block clubs can also help to build social connections between neighbors, which can be especially important in areas where residents may not know each other well.

Lastly, they support the community and the activities they organize help the community to stay vibrant.

### Candidates for Board of Directors

#### JASON ADAMS

**Please describe your involvement with the Tremont West Development Corporation or other Tremont clubs and activities during the last 5 years:** My involvement with TWDC started this year when I paid a visit to the headquarters. I met Scott Rosenstein and Cory Riordan. Cory filled me in on the history of Tremont and a bit about TWDC, while Scott educated me on getting involved at the block club level, and the process to join TWDC.

**Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years:** I have volunteered with City Mission, Neighbors Make a Difference Day, and the Cleveland Food Bank. I am an annual giver to the United Way.

**Please describe any other memberships on boards or committees that you have had during the last 5 years (such as non-profit organizations, professional associations or city or county government):** I am a long-term board member of Centers for Dialysis Care, which is a non-profit, community-based dialysis company. I also sit on the finance committee, and serve as Treasurer for the Centers for Dialysis Care Foundation. Member of the CFA Institute, and the CFA Society of Cleveland.

**Please describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation:** q Arts / Crafts / Trades: Lover of the arts, and love to listen and play music. q Community Outreach q Community Representation q Construction q Finance: 25-year career in finance with a focus on investments, financial planning, and banking q Fundraising q Governance q Legal q Mechanical q Real Estate: Involved in several residential real estate transactions and provide guidance and financing to clients q Sales / Marketing: Involved in the wealth management sales process as a portfolio manager and a relationship manager q Technology q Writing / Documentation: Published reports as an equity analyst, and podcasts as a portfolio manager

**Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation:** I moved to Tremont in 2021 and was motivated to get more involved by what appeared to be an increase in violent crime in the neighborhood. Getting more involved only served to increase my interest in doing more. As a native of northeast Ohio I love Cleveland, and, as a resident of Tremont, I want to contribute to the continued health and vitality of the neighborhood.

**Statement:** The information I most want voters to consider is that I love Cleveland, and genuinely want to help make a positive impact on Tremont and the surrounding community. I believe I bring a unique set of skills as a CFA Charterholder, a professional designation within the investment profession that hones expertise in asset valuation, economics, financial statement analysis, portfolio management and ethics. I would welcome the opportunity to forward TWDC's mission of promoting an inclusive community, and unified neighborhood.

#### CAROLYN BENTLEY

**Please describe your involvement with the Tremont West Development Corporation or other Tremont clubs and activities during the last 5 years:** I began my formal relationship with the board about 3 years ago when I was elected Duck Island's ex-officio representative to the board. Then when a board seat became available about a year ago I was voted on as a full voting member and later as secretary of the full board and the executive committee. In addition to serving as a member of these boards, I have been on committees like Celebrate Tremont and Economic Development and I've volunteered at events like the Arts &

Cultural Festival. I have also been a long time sponsor of Tremont West and all their yearly programming. I have also been in charge of planning Duck Island's annual Party in the Park summer potluck for the last 3 years.

**Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years:** For the last more than 5 years I had been an active volunteer for the May Dugan Center, even winning their "Volunteer of the Year" recognition. Due to scheduling conflicts I ended my relationship with May Dugan about 2 months ago in part because I had to decide whether to spend my available time volunteering for May Dugan or Tremont West and I chose Tremont West.

**Please describe any other memberships on boards or committees that you have had during the last 5 years (such as non-profit organizations, professional associations or city or county government):** None besides those described above.

**Please describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation:** The main area of expertise I bring to Tremont West is an in-depth understanding of real estate in the Tremont and Duck Island markets. Primarily residential (which is what I practice) but I have had some experience with commercial real estate projects just as an interested observer. I have had the opportunity to support Tremont West in their real estate ventures and to serve as a sounding board and educated advisor many times over the years. I also have a strong interest in the importance of community and the arts and how those structures work to reinforce a strong city neighborhood. I am a naturally organized and structured thinker who values supporting those who are serving the community so I feel like my role as the board secretary has been the perfect fit for my abilities.

**Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation:** It has been a true pleasure to me to be able to serve on the board and as the board secretary over the last year. I feel like this is the right fit for my desire to encourage and structurally support those individuals who are serving our community. Duck Island and Tremont are so important to me as an active community member and I want to continue to be a voice for the community and for the importance of community.

**My 75(ish) word statement:** Duck Island is the first place I've lived that has felt like home and community. It has been such an honor to me to be able to raise my young family in this neighborhood of active, involved members who watch out for each other. I want to continue to support and strengthen this. I want to serve my neighbors and help them have the same experience I am having living here through all phases of our lives.

#### FREDERICK CALATRELLO

**Please describe your involvement with the Tremont West Development Corporation or other Tremont clubs and activities during the last 5 years:** current member TWDC Board, member and co-chair North of Literary block club, member Economic Development Committee. Volunteered to work on almost every festival or occasion sponsored by TWDC such as Arts In August, Taste of Tremont, annual food drives et al

**Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years:** Catholic Charities, Seeds of Literacy, St. Joseph's Indian School (South Dakota), St. Augustine summer camp for children and Food Pantry

**Please describe any other memberships on boards or committees that you have had during the last 5 years (such as non-profit organizations, professional associations or city or county government):** President of the Board, Arts Renaissance Tremont, which has sponsored

# ‘May There Always be Mama’ A Mother’s Day Recipe from Chef Natasha



Painting by Alexander Pogrebinsky

by Chef Natasha Pogrebinsky

“MAY THERE ALWAYS BE MAMA”

-Natasha Pogrebinsky

“May there always be sunshine,  
May there always be blue skies,  
May there always be Mama,  
May there always be me!”

This refrain is from a popular children’s song, part of which was composed in 1928 by a four-year-old boy. It summarizes people’s desire for peace.

With more new wars, more division, more polarization, this timeless sentiment stands true today as well: the yearning for world peace, peace for the sake of every nation, every peoples, and for our planet as well.

I grew up singing this song, loving this song. In the early ‘80s my father, Alexander Pogrebinsky, painted this famous work. It is the center piece of a triptych depicting a hopeful mother and children, a thriving and happy Earth. Surrounding pieces show the reality of war, strife, hardships, a bleak and frightening future.

I posed for this painting with my brother and Mama.

This Mother’s Day, I’m wishing for peace in Ukraine and Russia, of peace and welfare for mothers and children everywhere and for our Mother Earth.

This year, I’m serving a Waffle Tea Sandwich Board—it’s playful, it’s bright—you can be as creative as you want, and it will please everyone, most importantly, moms.

The idea is mini waffles, or even classic Eggo waffles will work, topped with various deliciousness like smoked salmon, grilled steak, strawberry mousse, chocolate and bananas, cucumbers and mint cream cheese, fried chicken, the possibilities are endless.

It’s also a fun recipe to do with kids; it’s a fun and interactive group cooking activity for every age.

### Mint Cream Cheese & Smoked Salmon

- 6 oz soft cream cheese
- 2 oz mint jelly
- 6 oz smoked salmon
- thinly sliced cucumbers
- 3 Eggo waffles sliced in half

Combine and gently fold the cream cheese and jelly. Spread 1 oz on a toasted waffle, place 1 slice of cucumber and (about 1oz) of smoked salmon on top.

### Garlic Steak & Green Beans

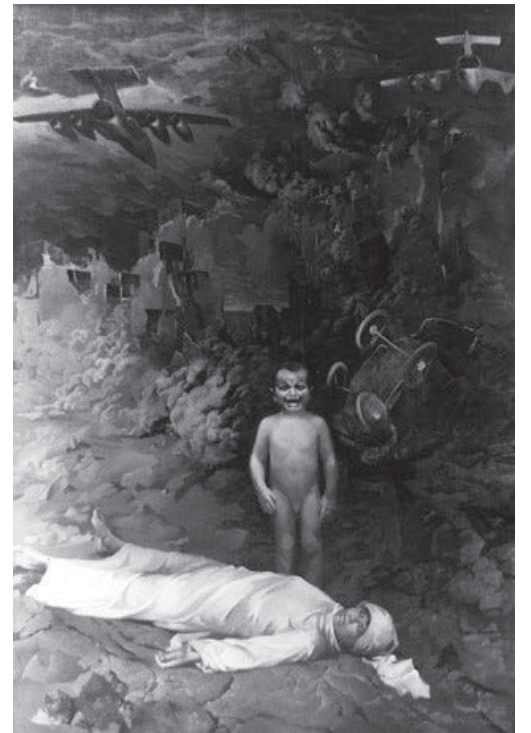
- 6 fresh green beans
- 8 oz strip steak
- 1 oz fresh minced garlic
- 4 oz extra virgin olive oil
- 1 oz fresh chopped parsley
- fresh lemon
- salt and pepper
- 3 Eggo waffles

In a medium mixing bowl, combine minced garlic, extra virgin olive oil, chopped parsley, a pinch of salt and pepper, and a few drops of fresh lemon. Allow to sit and marinate for 20 minutes.

Boil a small pot of water seasoned well with salt. Cook the green beans until tender and bright green (about 5 minutes), remove, and run under cold water to stop them turning yellow. Cut the beans in quarters. Place in the marinade.

Season the steak well, pre-heat a medium-sized pan on high, add 1 oz olive oil, sear the steak to medium-rare temperature (about 3 minutes per side), remove, allow to cool completely. Slice thinly. Place in the marinade with the beans.

Place the steak and bean salad on top of the waffle and serve.



Paintings by Alexander Pogrebinsky

## COVID-19 Resources Available!

**Vaccines are still the primary way to fight COVID.**

If you missed the May 11, 2023 deadline to receive no cost COVID test kits and vaccinations, you can **visit your local pharmacy** or Cleveland Department of Public Health Community Health Clinics to pay out-of-pocket or with insurance for COVID resources.

**You still have choices. Minimize your risk of COVID-19 infection by getting vaccinated TODAY.**

Scan for COVID-19 vaccines, boosters and supplies near you:



Cuyahoga County: Call **216-201-2000** for more information or visit or <https://ccbh.net/>  
Cleveland: Call **216-664-2324** or visit <https://www.clevelandhealth.org/>

If you have questions about long-term care and support services, visit [www.areaagingsolutions.org](http://www.areaagingsolutions.org)



# Mayor Bibb, Guest Reporter for *The Tremonster*



Ryan Beck & LT Magnotto at Martha on the Fly, being interviewed by Mayor Bibb

Photos by *The Tremonster*

In mid-April, Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb asked *The Tremonster* to tag along as he took a stroll down Professor Ave. in Tremont. We documented as Mayor Bibb struck up conversations with small business owners and residents about what works well, what could work better, and what they love most about their neighborhood of Tremont. The following is Mayor Bibb's Guest Contributor report for *The Tremonster*.

## by Guest Contributor Mayor Justin Bibb

Hey, everybody. This is Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb. I recently met with some of the leaders, business owners, and residents that make Tremont such a vibrant and close-knit community. Tremont is one of my favorite neighborhoods to visit. Built by immigrants in the late 1900s, Tremont's many churches, cutting-edge galleries, boutique shopping, coffee houses, delicious restaurants, and beautiful homes give a sense of community that has been attracting new residents for decades.

## Ryan Beck & LT Magnotto at Martha on the Fly

Martha on the Fly: 2173 Professor Ave  
**Mayor Bibb:** Ryan? Mayor Bibb. Good to see you.

**Ryan:** Hi, welcome.

**Mayor Bibb:** LT, good to see you.

**LT Magnotto:** Good to meet you.

**Mayor Bibb:** Tell me about this spot—the vibe looks great; the decor is awesome.

**Ryan:** Thank you! This is Martha on the Fly, named after my great-grandmother, and it's inspired by food that I ate growing up. It's all scratch-made breakfast and lunch.

**Mayor Bibb:** I'm assuming your great-grandmother could cook a really good breakfast?

**Ryan:** Yeah, heck of a job.

**Mayor Bibb:** The rumor is you have a pretty darn good bacon, egg, and cheese. Is that correct?

**Ryan:** Best in the city. That's what we hear.

**Mayor Bibb:** You could have chosen any neighborhood in the City of Cleveland. Tell me why you chose Tremont.

**Ryan:** We saw Tremont as a tight-knit

neighborhood. It's really walkable. The neighborhood also takes pride in the businesses that are here. They love supporting small businesses, and they've definitely come out for us. We're coming up on a year now.

**Mayor Bibb:** That's great. Well, congratulations on almost one year in our amazing city. We all know that the hospitality industry and the restaurant sector is facing so many challenges coming out of the pandemic. Can you talk about what we need to be doing as a city to do a better job of supporting companies like you in our city?

**Ryan:** Well, we started in the pandemic as an idea. We shared a lot of the same struggles that other food service operators did—finding and maintaining great staff. A lot of people were out looking for jobs, and we grabbed some great people and we've been able to keep them as well. Also, when the post-pandemic pricing [and sourcing] has gone a little haywire, using locally sourced products has been a great thing for us and it's able to help keep our costs down.

**Mayor Bibb:** That's great. How about for you, LT? Anything you're seeing?

**LT Magnotto:** Yeah, we're just excited to be here in Tremont. Getting people to come out, and know where we're at, and be part of the community has been an important part of our success here. We started as a pop-up during the pandemic, and we were utilizing somebody else's shuttered kitchen space. Being able to find a home here—and have the community rally behind what we're doing, it's been amazing.

**Mayor Bibb:** That's great. Well, I'm looking forward to coming back for that amazing Martha's own bacon, egg, and cheese sandwich.

**Ryan:** That's right. We'll be here.

**Mayor Bibb:** All right—thanks for chatting today.

**LT Magnotto:** Come through again.

**Mayor Bibb:** Good to see you, brother.

## Tremont West President Seronica Powell at Roasted Tremont

Roasted Tremont: 2275 Professor Ave

**Mayor Bibb:** Seronica, how are you doing?

**Seronica:** I'm good. How are you?

**Mayor Bibb:** I'm doing well. Good weather in Cleveland. I got no complaints.

**Seronica:** Oh, very sunny. Lovely outside today.

**Mayor Bibb:** I understand you have been a longtime resident of Tremont. Is that correct?

**Seronica:** Yes, I've been here now for almost twenty years.

**Mayor Bibb:** Twenty years. What do you

love about this neighborhood?

**Seronica:** I love the community feel of it all. You have the parks... The growth that Tremont has seen, I love that. While we've had a lot of different businesses come in, we've had some leave, but it's just been that family and community vibe that you get from here.

**Mayor Bibb:** That's great. If you could describe Tremont in one word, what word would that be?

**Seronica:** Vibrant.

**Mayor Bibb:** Vibrant, I love that. What are some of the big opportunities you see for the future of this neighborhood?

**Seronica:** I see an opportunity for us to continue to bring new housing into the community, but making sure that we have mixed housing so that we can accommodate the long-term residents. Making sure that we have affordable housing in Cleveland. Also, I see an opportunity for us to continue to diversify.

**Mayor Bibb:** And I think those are all distinct elements, my opinion, of neighborhoods of choice.

**Seronica:** Yes.

**Mayor Bibb:** Ones that are inclusive, diverse, great housing options across the entire income spectrum. We should all be striving for that to be the ideal for every neighborhood in Cleveland. Can you talk about some of the challenges that you see in the neighborhood as well, too?

**Seronica:** Well, some of those same things that we see as success, a strength of the community, end up being a challenge. Because as you bring in more housing, as much as we would love to keep the long-term residents present... When you're building new houses, there's gentrification happening, and a lot of the long-term residents are losing their homes. Taxes are going up. People can't afford the houses that they're currently in, just because of the fact that they're trying to keep up with the community. And we have people on fixed incomes. And so, it's just a challenge.

**Mayor Bibb:** And I think we, as a city, have to continue to explore and use new tools and new policy solutions to make sure, especially our seniors, can live in place and retire with dignity in their homes. That's so important.

**Seronica:** Absolutely. I think about my neighbor and how she lives alone. She's older. She's in her 80s now. And so, just trying to maintain her property and keep it up herself, but it's great to see that different

people from the community do step in and help her out.

**Mayor Bibb:** That's great. Well, thanks for joining me

**Seronica:** Thank you.

## The Tremonster Publisher Rich Weiss at Roasted Tremont

Roasted Tremont: 2275 Professor Ave

**Mayor Bibb:** Rich, you had a long, storied career as a community activist,

really uplifting the unsung heroes in our city. Can you talk about why media, in particular community media, is so important to you and to Cleveland?

**Rich:** Yes: we started *The Tremonster* because there were beautiful things going on in the neighborhood, but it was difficult to tell the stories of the heroes, rolling up their sleeves, and making it a better place to live and being very intentional about remaining mixed income. I came into the neighborhood in 1992. I bought into the arts movement that was going on here. I was lucky enough to get in just when the ArtWalk started—the Jean Brandt-directed monthly event, supported by Tremont West—that really built Tremont on artists and let the businesses follow.

**Mayor Bibb:** Sometimes we forget that arts can really be that key link to turn around a community, turn around a neighborhood, turn around a city.

**Rich:** Absolutely. By 2011, the community was so unique that I, with a little experience in media, and my wife, who is a first-year writing instructor at Cleveland State with a focus on her urban students' success—

**Mayor Bibb:** Go Vikings.

**Rich:** —Go Vikings! ...we decided to start telling stories ourselves about our own community. And that's how *The Tremonster* started. We know our communities best. Why not simply talk to our own neighbors?

**Mayor Bibb:** Can you talk about what you think Cleveland needs now in terms of media? Given everything we're seeing with media across the country.

**Rich:** There's a noble push by national foundations to save local media. Because I believe community media can help save communities, I think we need to grow ecosystems of community media. I'm associated with 15 neighborhood, community, and ethnic media outlets and we work together. We collaborate instead of compete because it brings about better quality information to all our separate, micro audiences. I don't think that *The Tremonster* made Tremont. I just think that *The Tremonster* helps bring Tremonters together.

**Mayor Bibb:** That's great. How can City Hall support community media?

**Rich:** Aside from marketing communications and advertising investment in our ethnic and community media? What I feel we most need is for you to continue doing what you have been doing, which is using the opportunity that our outlets present: a golden connection to "hard-to-reach" residents in your Cleveland ZIP codes. My neighbor is not hard to reach for me because I can reach them on their porch. Once you're embedded in the community and know it, you're going to tell a different kind of story from inside the community than you can tell from outside the community, looking in. I think what we need is more community media. I don't think it needs to be much else. If community members start telling stories about their own communities, the rest will follow.

**Mayor Bibb:** Spot on. And I think that's essential, not only for the vibrancy of Cleveland, but for the continued vibrancy of our democracy. So, thanks for all that you're doing.

**Rich:** Thank you very much, Mayor.

## Ceramic Artist Angelica Pozo and Tanya Kaiser, Artist-Owner at Kaiser Art Gallery

Kaiser Art Gallery: 2418 Professor Ave

**Mayor Bibb:** We are here today at the Kaiser Art Gallery, in the heart of the great Tremont neighborhood. Tanya, tell us about what this gallery means to you, why you started it, and



Seronica Powell, President of Tremont West, being interviewed by Mayor Bibb



Rich Weiss, Publisher of *The Tremonster*, being interviewed by Mayor Bibb

# Mayor Bibb, Guest Reporter for *The Tremonger*

what it's meant to Tremont.

**Tanya:** This is definitely a labor of love. I'm an artist. I'm a sculptor. And I wanted a place I felt needed to exist: it's very artist friendly; it's very community welcoming. It's not necessarily just for art people, but for people of all different backgrounds. It's accessible. We have different events. We have different kinds of art programming—not just visual arts.

We offer dancing; we offer entertainment; we have spoken word events. We're really accessing different community members and people from all over

Cleveland. And then, we even have artists that are exhibiting from all over the world.

**Mayor Bibb:** That's amazing. Now, Angelica, you are a Cleveland artist [of ceramics and public art installations].

**Angelica:** Yes.

**Mayor Bibb:** Tell us about what this gallery has meant for you as an artist in Cleveland.

**Angelica:** It's great to have another gallery in Tremont. I've been in Tremont for some 30 odd years, and I've seen the transition from [featuring] more galleries and a lot of artist spaces. Then, I've seen Tremont become more popular and [feature] more restaurants and bars. It's nice that we're starting to get more art spaces, event spaces, and places that performing and visual arts can come together and be part of our community again.

**Mayor Bibb:** We recognize at the City of Cleveland how important it is for us to have a vibrant arts community to not just culture, but to economic and community development as well. We need a citywide strategy to see more public spaces in the city related to art. Hopefully, you can help us out with that. I wanted to ask, in your words, what do you think is missing in terms of arts and culture in Cleveland?

**Angelica:** Ways for artists to be able to make connections. There are different groups; there are different initiatives in different pockets—here and there. And so, I want artists to be able to access that. I think we need more ways to create more partnerships with different organizations and businesses. If there was some way

for that to be able to come together more easily, I think that would really help out. **Mayor Bibb:** And, Tanya, as an owner of a gallery in Cleveland, what are your thoughts on some of the challenges, or what things do we need to be doing more as a city?

**Tanya:** Cleveland has some wonderful world-renowned gems when it comes to arts and culture, and I wish we could

leverage that more. People always view Cleveland as a destination spot—oddly enough they do—and I really would like to feed that more. **Mayor Bibb:** Well, we've got to work

together to tell that story to the world. Thank you both.

## Brad Hauber, Tremont Resident, on Cool Water Dry Goods Sidewalk Patio

Cool Water Dry Goods sidewalk patio: 2406 Professor Ave

**Mayor Bibb:** Brad, what's going on?

**Brad:** Just sitting here talking to the mayor of our fine city.

**Mayor Bibb:** It's 80 degrees in the best city in the world, Cleveland, Ohio, in one of

the best neighborhoods, Tremont. I understand you've been a Tremont resident for almost two decades now, right?

**Brad:** Correct. My wife and I moved here in 2004. One of the reasons we chose to live here was things like this (Brad gestured at the Professor streetscape). You can walk around the neighborhood; walk to restaurants, bars, shops; it's close to Downtown. There are a lot of advantages of Tremont.

**Mayor Bibb:** The walkability, I think, is one of the greatest assets to this neighborhood. Can you talk more about what you believe are some of the greatest

strengths of Tremont and what makes it one of the best neighborhoods in Cleveland?

**Brad:** I think that walkability factor. We can even walk to Ohio City. We can walk Downtown. You can bike. We now have the towpath trail that comes through. The

walkability, the proximity to Downtown. If you need a car, it's easy to get to highways. Also, it might be cliché, but the people who live here are also probably the best asset. We moved here for those things but then, when you get involved in the neighborhood, going to block clubs, you meet people and just see what a neighborhood, sense of

community, and the pride that people have in living here.

**Mayor Bibb:** When I was running for Mayor, I certainly recognized that Tremont had some of the most actively engaged citizens in the city. Our city has been through so much over the last several decades. We certainly have much more work to do in other parts of the community. But from your vantage point, what do you believe are the greatest opportunities, not just for Tremont, but for Cleveland in the future?

**Brad:** More people moving into the city. Even just in Tremont, the businesses—I think we need more residents to support the businesses. You know what a challenge retail can be.

But also then, with the growth of Tremont has come other challenges. People who

have lived here a long time, property taxes go up. Housing goes up. Affordable housing is also something that's very important in Tremont and all over the city.

**Mayor Bibb:**

We've been trying to use every resource we can at City Hall to incentivize more inclusive housing, more affordable and workforce housing, to meet those housing challenges for our city. Thanks for taking the time, Brad. Truly appreciate it.

**Brad:** Thank you.

## Natalie Stanley Cool Water Dry Goods

Cool Water Dry Goods: 2406 Professor Ave

**Mayor Bibb:** Hey, nice to meet you.

**Natalie:** Nice to meet you.

**Mayor Bibb:** I heard you had some good fits in here.

**Natalie:** I do.

**Mayor Bibb:** So, tell me about your store. I'm already feeling the vibe of the plants, the clothes. Tell me about it.

**Natalie:** We are a curated vintage clothing store that specializes in 1970 and previous. We like to focus on

natural fibers: wool, cotton, silks, linen. But anything that's cool will end up here.

**Mayor Bibb:** That's an amazing decade for fashion.

**Natalie:** Yeah, absolutely. Anything to even the early 1900s.

**Mayor Bibb:** Now, how helpful has Tremont West been for you?

**Natalie:** Amazing. I don't think I would've ever been able to find a storefront, affordable, at this stage in my business.

**Mayor Bibb:** And how long have you been in business?

**Natalie:** I've been in business for about four years, and this is my first storefront that I started about a month ago.

**Mayor Bibb:** That's amazing. That's great. And what do you love about having your business right here in Tremont?

**Natalie:** The residents, the walkability. Everyone's been so excited about us being here—and very, very welcoming. The dogs—they all like to come in.

**Mayor Bibb:** I love that. Well, I'm looking forward to coming back...

**Natalie:** Yeah, please do.

**Mayor Bibb:** So nice to meet you, Natalie.

**Natalie:** You, too. Nice to meet you.

**Mayor Bibb:** Thanks, everyone, for joining us on our tour of the Tremont neighborhood.

If you're in the neighborhood and see one of the Tremont businesses or residents we interviewed, please let them know you saw their interview with Mayor Bibb in *The Tremonger*!

If Mayor Justin Bibb can submit content to *The Tremonger*, so can you! If you love our shared neighborhood of Tremont, please submit content for publishing consideration in our next issue.



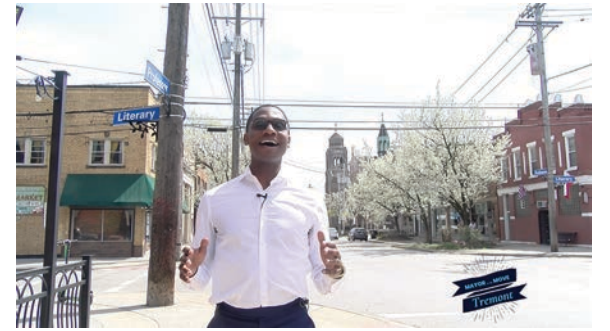
Tanya Kaiser, Artist-Owner of Kaiser Gallery, being interviewed by Mayor Bibb



Brad Hauber, Tremont Resident, being interviewed by Mayor Bibb



Angelica Pozo, Ceramic Artist, being interviewed by Mayor Bibb

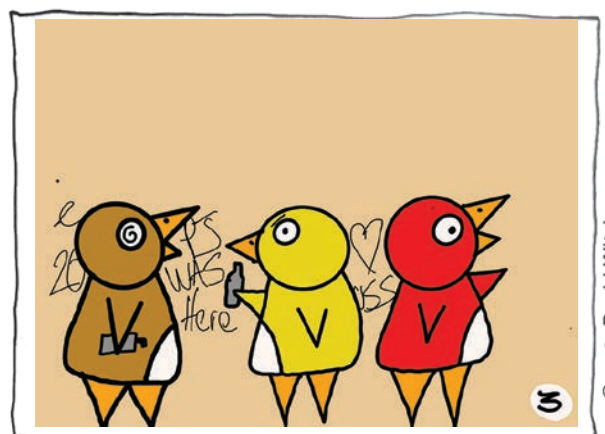
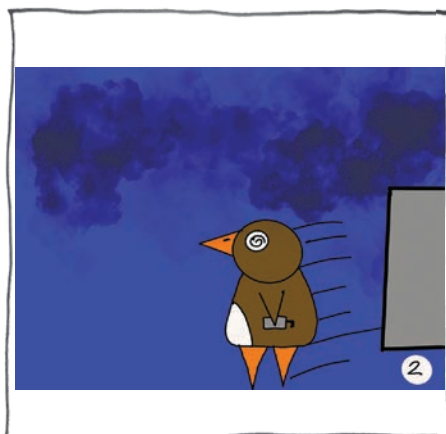


Mayor Justin Bibb

## The Adventures of Tremont and His Friends

## "Akidandhis Part 2"

The Sighay/1972 *David Witzke*



©2023 David Witzke

# Hooper Farm Celebrated Earth Day with Kite-Making



Photos by Bruce Checefsky

Erich Hooper at Hooper Farm Kite Day held this past Earth Day, April 22.

by Bruce Checefsky

Eric Hooper has been farming since 1993. Hooper Farm in Tremont, the original Cleveland urban farm, is cultivated on a 1-acre parcel at 2702-2880 W 11th Street, just a few blocks from A Christmas Story House and Lincoln Park. Eric works with the youth, elderly, ex-convicts, and others on the farm, giving them real-life skills and opportunities they can use to support themselves. Hooper grows lettuce, carrots, tomatoes, sage, onions, potatoes, and other crops, with enough produce for restaurants, many of them in the Tremont neighborhood. Hooper Farm Kite Day at Clark Field took place last month.

**Bruce:** What is Hooper Farm Kite Day?  
**Erich:** I was in New Hampshire near the ocean when a semi pulled up to the beach, opened up the side of the truck, and there were hundreds of kites of various sizes and types. People ran to the it like it was a candy store. They purchased the kites or rented them, then went to the beach and flew them. Imagine seeing three hundred people along the shore-line flying kites. It was beautiful, and I thought, wow, we do not have that in Cleveland. So the idea is to start a kite festival neighborhood by neighborhood and unite them all at the lakefront for a Cleveland Kite Day. It is the incubation of that idea to see how feasible it is to work out. We have

involved The Pivot Center for Art, Dance, and Expression as our space to create and decorate kites. We had over forty-five kids show up to make kites. Some kites went to schools like Tremont Montessori, Luis Muñoz Marín, and Lincoln West School, while others went to boys and girls clubs. They get to decorate the kites and use their design, and we teach them a little about aerodynamics and aviation. The result is to spread the kite festival throughout Cleveland to make the children aware of what is happening above their heads in the sky.

**Bruce:** Why do kids like kites?

**Erich:** Kids like the freedom of control over something. They cannot yet drive a

car but ride a bike. The kite is the same kind of freedom as biking. Once they find kite competitions and kite battles, and other cultures using kites, it becomes a whole new marketing opportunity for a young entrepreneur.  
**Bruce:** What is kite day?  
**Erich:** Cleveland has no official Kite Day. There is a National Kite Flying Day in February, but we missed that date, so we picked another one [Earth Day]. Children get to learn about kites from other cultures. The most notorious balloon kite was the recent one sent over by the Chinese.  
**Bruce:** How does this project fit into your concept for an urban farm?  
**Erich:** As I have said for years, there are a hundred jobs on any farm, not just digging into the soil. There are mathematics and science, electricity, plumbing, and weather studies. Each child has the ability to use their imagination, so this is not just another offshoot of what kids would normally do.

**Bruce:** Are you a kite maker?

**Erich:** We started as kids using black garbage bags and tree limbs, and string from the clothesline. We tore shirts apart to make the kite tail.

**Bruce:** How important to flying is the kite tail?

**Erich:** Kite tails are of various sizes and weights and offer different aerodynamic dimensions to the kite flying. If you look at a the wings and feathers of a bird or an airplane wings, the way they operate, the kite tail is the same kind of magic. The beautiful thing about a kite tail is you can always dazzle and make them as long

as you want. The kites we brought for the festival are about five feet long, very beautiful and a pain in the rear to stuff back into the bag.

**Bruce:** Where do you get the materials from?

**Erich:** Tremont West Corporation provided the materials. Dharma Valentin, Community & Equity Organizer/Program Manager, got them online. We looked at several kinds and types of kites, various styles, and large ones that resemble airplanes. David Witzke, the Bird Man from Tremont, put his bird on one of the kites. The kites are available all summer long.

We get beautiful wind in and around Clark Field. I have been playing there since I was a kid in 1966.

**Bruce:** How is the farm?  
**Erich:** Things are well on the farm. We have nine shiitake mushroom logs that we are looking to sell to restaurants so you can order them, and the chef will cut the



Vernice Simmons and Vera Elridge at Hooper Farm Kite Day

mushrooms off the log and cook them for you in a kind of performance art event that is agricultural. It is one thing to take a mushroom from a bin and prepare it, while another to cut it from the log while it is still alive and use it in front of a customer. We have a few more projects this summer. I want to have a neighborhood dog show.

**Bruce:** If someone were interested in the mushroom logs, for example, how do they reach you?

**Erich:** Call 216-854-3905 or find us on Facebook. Google us. I usually respond within a day or two, especially about the product. We have cherry wood for sale, dura flame logs, mulberry, and maple, although some maple has been going to the



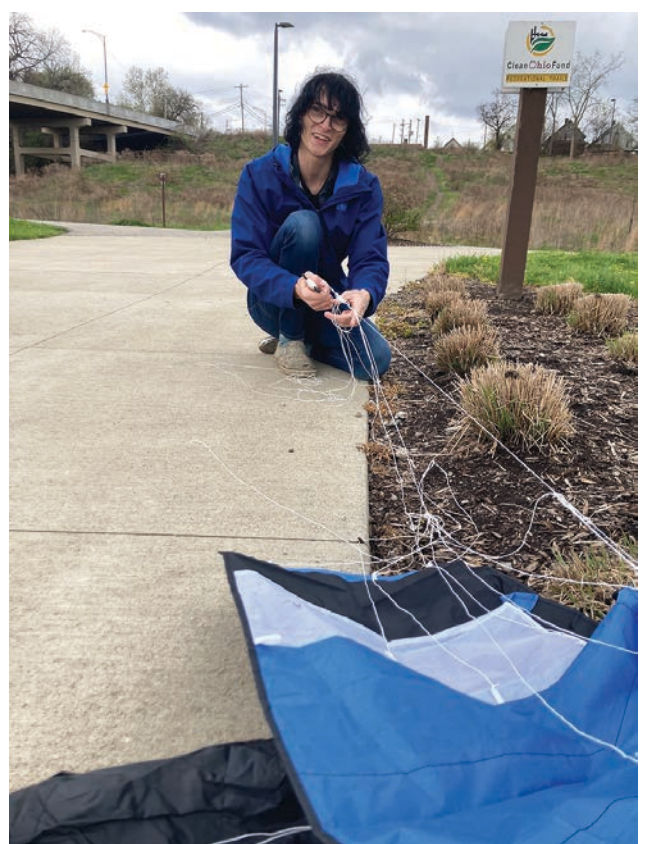
Jarrett Turney at Hooper Farm Kite Day

Cleveland Zoo to feed the elephants.

**Bruce:** I was not aware elephants ate maple.

**Erich:** They love it. I used to work at the zoo when I was a kid. Years ago, I would take the elephant and animal waste and use it on the farm. Now they call it zoo-do. In the summers, I worked at the swimming pool in the zoo, and at night, they would bring the

elephants into the pool and let them swim. Then we would drain it, sweep it clean, and fill it back up for the people to swim in it during the day.



Claire Elliott at Hooper Farm Kite Day

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# Tremont West Annual Meeting 5/18

[...continued from page 4]

free concerts in Tremont for over 30 years, elected precinct person Ward 3(f) and elected to Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Executive and Central Committees and member of Ward 3 Democratic Club, volunteered to serve on Metro Zoo citizen work-shop, Member of American Bar Association, ACLU, charter member of the Federal Senior Executive Association, member of numerous environmental groups including the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Worldwildlife Organization, National Parks Conservation Assoc., Defenders of Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy et al. I am also a long standing member of AARP, Cleveland Museum of Art and PBS.

**Please describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation:** by both academic training and professional experience, I have skills in journalism, law and management (for more than 30 years I was head of the Cleveland office of the National Labor Relations Board which for decades had between 25 and 50 professional employees (both attorneys and field examiners) as well as support staff and interns. I hold undergraduate and graduate law degrees in Labor Relations and I was frequently on national management teams that negotiated collective bargaining agreements between the NLRB and its employee unions. I also authored evaluations of senior supervisors and managers in my office. And I took part in several arbitration proceedings. Before coming to Cleveland I served as Chief Counsel to NLRB Board Members (presidential appointees), authored numerous published Board decision and personally argued cases before a Federal Court of Appeals. (4th Circuit). I believe all of this equips me to be a valuable TWDC Board member.

**Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation:** I have found my past 3 years on the TWDC Board to be both challenging and engaging. I think TWDC provides an invaluable service to Tremont residents and I believe that as an active Board member I have contributed, and would like to continue to contribute, to TWDC's success. Membership on the TWDC Board of Directors requires a substantial commitment of time and energy. Members of the Board typically serve on one or more committees, which meet monthly, as well as the Board of Directors meeting, which also meets monthly. Typically, Board Members spend between 5 -10 hours per month on TWDC matters. Please indicate the number of hours per month that you will be available as a member of the Board of Directors: given that I am retired I would fully expect to be able to contribute 10 or more hours a month to TWDC. Please send this application, along with a current résumé and a short (not more than 75 words) statement that contains the information you most wish voters to consider to: twdcboard@gmail.com I am a 27yr. Resident of Tremont seeking a second term on the TWDC Board. The Board plays a critical role in communicating the views of Tremont residents to City administration and, conversely, in informing residents about the public and private projects that affect Tremont. Given my academic training in journalism and law, coupled with substantial managerial experience, I am well suited for a Board position that demands both dedication and skills.

**Statement:** I am a 27yr. Resident of Tremont seeking a second term on the TWDC Board. The Board plays a critical role in communicating the views of Tremont residents to City administration and, conversely, in informing residents about the public and private projects that affect Tremont. Given my academic training in journalism and law, coupled with substantial managerial experience, I am well suited for a Board position that demands both dedication and skills.  
**DANIEL IMFELD**

**Please describe your involvement with the Tremont West Development Corporation or other Tremont clubs and activities during the last 5 years:** •

Tremont West Development Corporation Board Member 2020 – 2023 o Tremont West Development Corporation Executive Committee (Treasurer) – 2021 – 2023 • Member of North of Literary Block Club (2021 – 2023) • Member of South of Jefferson Block Club (2015 – 2021) • Tremont Trek – Host Home 2019 and Planning Committee 2020 • Active participant in Tremont (Taste of Tremont, Tremont Farmers Market, Walk About Tremont, Tremont Trek, etc.)

**Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years:** • Tremont West Development Corporation – Board Member and Treasurer • St. Marin De Porres High School – Board Member and Finance Committee Chairman • United Way – Emerging Leaders Co-Chair • John Carroll University – guest speaker to Accounting and Finance classes • Pelotonia – cancer bike ride fund raiser and participant

**Please describe any other memberships on boards or committees that you have had during the last 5 years (such as non-profit organizations, professional associations or city or county government):** • St. Marin De Porres High School – Board Member and Finance Committee Chairman • United Way – Emerging Leaders Co-Chair • American Institute of Certified Public Accountants • Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants

**Please describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation:** • Professional Skills: o Financial Advisor – Licenses; Series 7, Series 66 o Certified Financial Planner TM o Certified Exit Planning Advisor o Certified Public Accountant • Tremont Experience: o TWDC BOD member since 2020 o TWDC Treasurer since 2021 o Homeowner in Tremont since 2015

**Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation:** • Tremont is my home, and I am passionate about the continued success and improvement of the neighborhood. This includes continuing to invest in residential homes, newbuild and rehab, attracting new restaurants and business, improving the parks, increasing safety and promoting the overall community we all live in. This also includes ensuring we maintain the diversity and culture that is already present in Tremont. We can do this through ensuring that we protect and help long time residents of the neighborhood remain vibrant pieces of our community. The neighborhood has matured over the last number of years, and I'd like to continue to help the community grow and remain a place where all people prefer to live, work and relax – both lifelong and new residents. Over the years I've lived in Tremont, I've grown to love the neighborhood and want to be able to do my part to help contribute to the continued success of the neighborhood. I think that my professional experience coupled with my experience living in Tremont will allow me a unique opportunity to be a valuable asset to the Tremont West Development Board.

**75 Word Statement:** Tremont is my home and I am passionate about the success and safety of the neighborhood we all love and live in. I aim to do my part in helping Tremont remain a place people come to live, work and relax and aim to help our current residents remain vibrant members of the community. My experience as the current Treasurer of the TWDC Board of Directors and my professional financial services work experience positions me as a unique and valuable asset to the board and neighborhood.

**Please describe your involvement with the Tremont West Development Corporation or other Tremont clubs and activities during the last 5 years:** I co-chaired the Auburn Lincoln Park Block Club for 7 years and for the past 2 years

have served on TWDC Board of Trustees. I enjoy getting to know my neighbors through neighborhood events and the more I get involved in our community, the more I like this place and want to stay involved.

**Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years:** I have lent my professional skills to several local organizations in the midst of capital campaigns or other events, producing promotional content in support of their missions, including Merrick House, Rosemary Center, TWDC, and the Towpath Trail. (see [experiencetremont.com](http://experiencetremont.com) homepage)

**Please describe any other memberships on boards or committees that you have had during the last 5 years (such as non-profit organizations, professional associations or city or county government):** The Celebrate Tremont Committee has taken most of my time and I'm honored to say that we raised more for TWDC with more new corporate sponsors than in years past (relying less on our chefs and local small businesses) for events such as Arts in August, Taste of Tremont, Arts and Cultural Fest, and more.

**Please describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation:** o Arts / Crafts / Trades o Community Outreach o Community Representation o Construction o Finance o Fundraising o Governance o Legal o Mechanical o Real Estate o Sales / Marketing o Technology o Writing / Documentation

**Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation:** I feel like we are just getting started marketing TWDC and raising money for operations and events. I still have work to do!

**Statement:** After 7 years chairing the Lincoln Park Block Club, I have enjoyed two years on the TWDC board and feel that we are just getting started fundraising and marketing for Tremont. I would like to continue this work and ensure that our programming can not only sustain but also continue to grow.

**JASON D. PETROFF**

**Please describe your involvement with the Tremont West Development Corporation or other Tremont clubs and activities during the last 5 years:** Since moving to Tremont in 2020, I have been actively involved as a member of the Duck Island Block Club, participating in meetings, neighborhood events like the annual clean-up day, etc. In December 2021 I was elected to serve as the Duck Island representative to the TWDC Board of Directors and have served as Ex-Officio Director since January 2022. I have also been active as a voting member of the Economic Development Committee, participate in several other activities and events throughout the year like the annual River Sweep, and continue to expand my level of involvement within the community. Prior to moving to Tremont, I was involved with the Bridge Brigade Block Club in Detroit Shoreway.

**Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years:** There are several causes and organizations that are near and dear to me. Among them are the Cleveland Food Bank and CHN, both of which I support through volunteerism. As a member of the Fifth Third Bank corporate team in Cleveland, I am a proud supporter of the \$20 million investment the Bank is making in the Buckeye neighborhood of Cleveland. Fifth Third has collaborated with Enterprise Community Partners, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, CHN Housing Partners, and Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc. to provide strategic insight and investments to help support and revitalize the Buckeye neighborhood. I have been involved in volunteer opportunities through this investment partnership, which also hits close to "home" as I am a graduate

of Benedictine High School, which has been firmly rooted in the Buckeye neighborhood for nearly 100 years.

**Please describe any other memberships on boards or committees that you have had during the last 5 years (such as non-profit organizations, professional associations or city or county government):** While I have not had any direct involvement with other boards or committees over the past five years other than what has been touched on above, I have found my current involvement with the DI Block Club, ED Committee, and TWDC Board to be insightful and fulfilling, and therefore I am hopeful to continue my engagement with not only TWDC, but to also expand my involvement with non-profit organizations whose missions align with my values. My partner, Michael Rigol, Jr., serves as the City Commissioner of Stonewall Sports Cleveland, and I am proud and supportive of the work he does to help bring inclusive sports to the LGBTQIA+ community.

**Please describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation:** I consider myself to be a passionate and driven team-player, and I possess the tenacity needed to accomplish any task to which I set my mind. I feel that I bring a unique perspective to the Board as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, and as an individual who is passionate about building an inclusive community for all who consider Tremont home. Having been in the financial services and investment industry for nearly 13 years, I have developed a deep understanding of the complexities of managing wealth for high-net-worth clients. This expertise has afforded me the opportunity to develop relationships with clients and other members of the accounting, wealth management, and legal world. These individuals are intimately involved in a myriad of professional and non-profit organizations across Northern Ohio, and I would be excited at the opportunity to leverage my personal and professional networks to help advance the important work of TWDC.

**Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation:** (The following response was crafted to serve as a response to question five and the statement that contains the information you most wish voters to consider.) As a resident of Tremont, I feel that I bring a unique set of skills and perspective to the table, and have the drive needed to execute on the strategic initiatives of TWDC that will continue to improve the lives of Tremont residents and stakeholders. I care deeply about the community in which I live, and the City of Cleveland as a whole. Given that Duck Island is experiencing such a huge boom in development, and that the number of residents in the neighborhood will be growing by 600+ with three new apartment buildings (Waterford Bluffs, Abbey Avenue Apartments, and The Pearl), I feel that additional representation of the Duck Island Neighborhood on the TWDC Board is timely and necessary. If selected for this open Board position, it would be my privilege to serve as that voice for the residents of Duck Island and greater Tremont as the Board continues to serve and guide the community.

**(Statement):** As a current Tremont resident and Board member, I care deeply about Tremont, feel that I possess a unique set of skills and perspective, and have the drive needed to execute on the strategic initiatives of TWDC. Duck Island is experiencing a surge in development, and continued representation of Duck Island on the Board is important. It would be my privilege to continue serving as a voice for the residents of Duck Island and Tremont. Many thanks, Jason

## Memories of Tremont Ave.

# What Were Kids Like in the 1940s?

by Ken Scigulinsky

What were kids like in the 1940s? We didn't have cellphones, video games, or TV. Since no one in our Tremont Ave. neighborhood had a telephone, getting connected with your friends meant calling out their name in front of their door (we didn't knock), or we just went out to see who was on the street. That was easy to do after school when we all eagerly migrated outside or during the summer when the playground was the magnet for gathering. The mix of Southside kids consisted of kids with overprotective parents, kids with free reign, kids with athletic abilities, bullies, and kids with their nose in the books. Following are some examples of kids I knew while I lived on the Southside. Andre, about my age, lived a few houses away and rarely ventured outside of his yard. He never played games in the street with us, and I never saw him in the Tremont School playground during the summer. He was not one of the of 7 or 8 buddies who observed no boundaries in our quest for fun. I think he went to a parochial school. He had a sister we called Bubbles, and she occasionally played with my 2 sisters. I played in Andre's backyard a few times and once erratically threw a large ball that broke the window of the neighbor's house. Although I quickly ran home, there was no way my identity could be concealed. My father bought a glass pane and the caulking materials at a hardware store on Starkweather Ave. and replaced the pane by himself – I was surprised that my dad knew how to do that. Andre's family lived upstairs in the front of the 4-family house owned by his grandparents, and he was occasionally allowed to invite me to play in the large, neat immaculate basement that was like a palace compared to the cluttered basement we shared with 3 other families. One evening, I heard a loud explosion from Andre's upstairs porch. The next day, my curiosity was satisfied after his father demonstrated how he fired a toy mini cannon towards the street. He said it was safer than fireworks. I didn't know how it worked, but I remember the cannon was like a small civil war cannon on wheels containing a water chamber and a plunger. Some kind of powder was inserted, and when the plunger was depressed, the cannon produced a loud explosion. It didn't fire a projectile, but it was sufficiently dangerous enough to require Andre's dad to operate it. John (Red) was my role model and lived upstairs and in the front of our 4-family dwelling with his brother Gumball and his young attractive, divorced mother. His red hair was always neatly combed, parted with a wave in the front. Red was 2 years older than me, and Gumball and I were the same age. Red was a charismatic kid with the ability to steer our group in many interesting directions. He also had a magnetism that, even at our young age, attracted girls. I loved to hang around with him because being 2 years older he seemed to be very knowledgeable. He was an excellent athlete, and when



Toy Cannon

the newspaper came to highlight after-school sports at Tremont School, he was the one interviewed and highlighted in a photograph of basketball kids. I spent a lot of time in his house and was always welcomed. Red and Gumball had boxing gloves, and we used to take turns standing on their beds holding boxing matches. Gumball and I usually boxed each other, but I once boxed Red and surprised him by knocking him down. It was Red who taught me to ride a bicycle and once took me as a passenger on his bike, riding to Cleveland's East Side to visit a girl he met at the picnic held by his mother's employer, The Weatherhead Company. Their mother was always very kind to me and invited me to accompany them for the company's Christmas party and summer picnics at Geauga Lake and Euclid Beach. Years later, she re-married and moved to Parma a few years after we did. Interesting digression: Just as many Ohioans move to Florida, many Southsiders moved to Parma. Unfortunately, I only discovered many of my Tremont School friends in my Parma Senior High yearbook after graduation. There were almost 500 in my senior class, so there were many people I never saw. The best random connection story is with my sister, Peggy. Years ago, she was looking through her Tremont School class pictures with her husband, also a Parma transplant. He was astounded to see that he had been a student in my sister's class! We lived on Tremont, he lived on Starkweather, but they did not know each other.

I was also exposed to some mean kids. After a very heavy spring rain, when sewers could not handle all the water, I went out to the corner of Tremont and Jefferson where Grudzien's Grocery was located. I played right next to the curb, floating sticks on the backed-up water. When it started raining again, I got soaked and went home. My mom scolded me and changed me into dry clothes. When the bright sun came out, warming and drying everything, I went out again. There still

was a huge pool of water between the store and Tremont School, and a much older kid was walking in the water with his shoes on. I didn't know the kid but had seen him around the school, and he seem to be in a special class of kids who needed extra discipline. He offered to carry me over to the school yard although that was not my plan. After some coaxing, I said OK and he picked me up and started sloshing through the water. After a few steps he said, "Oh sh\*\*" and purposely dropped me in the water. My shoes, socks, and part of my pants were soaked, but I thought I could sneak into the house without my mom noticing my condition. It didn't work, and I was subjected to yelling and questioning about why I would let someone trick me that way. I was not allowed out after that.

Another time, I was walking through Lincoln Park when an older boy called me a nasty name and told me to come over to him. I had no idea who he was or what he wanted, so I ignored him and started walking away. He came after me. I started running and he chased me, gradually catching up. Still running, I decided to fall and roll into a ball, and he fell over me. He got on top of me and started rapping his knuckles into my chest telling me I shouldn't have run from him. Fortunately, my friend Red saw what was happening and physically intervened with a warning to my attacker to never touch me again. From the Dydo Bakery family across Tremont Ave. lived a pretty girl named Carol. She seemed to be in high school and we called her Miss Carol. I remember her calling me and Gumball over one summer evening, inviting us to go for a walk with her. We walked with her from Tremont to Starkweather, then Professor, stopping at a Dairy Dell ice cream shop at the corner of College, across from St John Cantius Church. She bought us a nickel

cone and then back home we went. What I remember about that night was something she made us do. She explained how in earlier times when a man walked with a woman, he would walk on the streetside of the sidewalk to shield her from splatter from carriages and horses. She said it would be a sign of courtesy to do that now. So, that's what Gumball and I did while walking with her, and it's something I practice to this very day.

Right next door was another attractive older girl named Jenny. She, too, was probably in high school while I was in elementary school. She lived in a single family home with a backyard and a few trees. Gumball and I used to fight over who would get to lie on the hammock that was strung up in her backyard. Yes, relaxing in the hammock was appealing, but the most important consideration was that it was a WWII surplus hammock. It was made with camouflaged material and had mosquito netting so you could lie in it and pretend you were a soldier in the Pacific. Jenny gave me a ride on the back rack of her bike while I still had my roller skates on. When she turned, the weight of the skate on one foot allowed it to contact the rotating spokes and severely cut my ankle.

There are so many memories from my 10 years on the Southside: Bobby, an older kid who lived across from Tremont School on Jefferson, had a motorbike and gave free rides to his peers, but when I wanted a ride, he charged me a nickel. Earl and Larry, brothers that lived across the street in their mean grandfather's house (we called him the mad Russian), would steal dollars from him and stash it in the handlebars of their bikes. Harry, a loner and much older, played an accordion and we shared the same teacher. I don't think any of our active group, besides me, ever visited Harry's house. His strict parents were Polish and didn't speak English, but I think they welcomed me because my dad was from Czechoslovakia.

I also had friends from my classes that lived outside of the Tremont Ave. area, but those were kids that I only visited after school, sometimes staying for dinner. All of my close friends, and there were 14 of them, lived on Tremont Ave. between Starkweather and Jefferson.

Sadly, I am not in contact with any of the kids I have mentioned. Some I was able to communicate with for many years but are now deceased. A few are probably still living but have put the Southside behind them. I have not, and my Southside memories are joyfully revisited. 📌



# May 2023 Walkabout Tremont: “Spring Fling”

by Brad Hauber

Walkabout Tremont is celebrating spring with a “Spring Fling” theme Friday, May 12, from 5 to 9 p.m. There will be more than 40 pop-up vendors along Professor Avenue selling art, food and more, a variety of musicians along Professor Ave., adorable alpacas, art on display (see below), food and drink specials, and galleries and boutiques open for browsing and shopping, and St. John Cantius Church open for tours. Visit [walkabouttremont.com](http://walkabouttremont.com) for more details.

#### Visible Voice Books

Book signing with ABC News journalist Mark Guarino for his new book *Country and Midwestern* about Chicago and the Midwest’s role in prewar country music. Featuring the Dollar Country radio show spinning rare country vinyl during the book signing, plus drink specials.

**Kaiser Gallery** continues *The Animal Kind*, an exhibition that explores humans’ fascination with animals that features work by 10 contemporary artists.

#### Edison’s Pub

Pop-culture art from local favorite Sean McCoy

**Doubling Thomas Gallery** has *EARTH: Our One and Only*, which is a group exhibition with new works from more than 30 artists examining the topic of Earth as one of the five classical elements and its significance from an environmental perspective.

**RestorARTive** outdoor art boxes feature five new artists debuting for Walkabout Tremont:

- Sarah Hines - Polaris - Kaiser Gallery
- Amirah Cunningham - Day and Night - The Treehouse
- Janoi Daley - Mongrel Dog (Foaming) Hi & Dry
- Dan Segal - The Big City - Climb Cleveland
- Joey Leppo - Generations - Fat Cats

The graphic features a central square frame containing the word "Spring" in a large, black, cursive font, with "FLING" in a bold, black, sans-serif font below it. To the right of the frame is a circular logo with a blue and white swirl pattern. The logo contains the text "FEED YOUR CREATIVE SIDE" at the top, "WALKABOUT TREMONT" in the center, and "SECOND FRIDAY" at the bottom. The background is white with scattered colorful dots and swirls in shades of green, yellow, orange, red, purple, and blue.

**FRIDAY, MAY 12 | 5–9PM**

**WALKABOUT TREMONT MOVES  
OUTSIDE FOR THE SEASON!**

# Tremont To-Do List

## CPL South Campus



### Family Circle Time

**Thursday, May 11 | 5 pm**

Join us for stories, songs and fingerplays during our family storytime!

### Once Upon a Cuento

**Saturday, May 13 | 11 am**

Join us for our bilingual Storytime in English and Spanish! Enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes in both languages.

Únase a nosotros para nuestro cuento bilingüe en Inglés y Español! Disfrute de historias, canciones y rimas en ambos idiomas.

### Craft Café

**Wednesday, May 17 | 11 am**

Do you want to be inspired and get your creative spark ignited? Join us at the Craft Café to sample a new craft idea each month.

### Family Circle Time

**Thursday, May 18 | 5 pm**

Join us for stories, songs and fingerplays during our family storytime!

### Family Coloring Day

**Saturday, May 20 | 12 pm**

Coloring books are not just for kids anymore, they are for everyone! Join us in discovering the relaxing benefits of coloring at the library. Enjoy this family-oriented coloring program and relax while you color as a family. Coloring books and supplies will be provided, but participants are welcome to bring their own materials from home.

### Spread the Word, Feed the Birds!

**Wednesday, May 24 | 2:30 pm**

Having a bird feeder is an amazing way to get in touch with nature. Come on down to the South Branch and create your very own bird feeder out of peanut butter and pine cones. All supplies will be provided.

### Family Circle Time

**Thursday, May 25 | 5 pm**

Join us for stories, songs and fingerplays during our family storytime!

### Once Upon a Cuento

**Saturday, May 27 | 11 am**

Join us for our bilingual Storytime in English and Spanish! Enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes in both languages.

Únase a nosotros para nuestro cuento bilingüe en Inglés y Español! Disfrute de historias, canciones y rimas en ambos idiomas.

### Family Circle Time

**Thursday, June 01 | 5 pm**

Join us for stories, songs and fingerplays during our Cleveland Reads family story hour.

### Coloring in Cleveland

**Saturday, June 03 | 12 pm**

Coloring books are not just for kids anymore. Join us for Cleveland Reads Coloring Days, which will include Cleveland-themed books and some of your favorite storytime characters. Coloring books and supplies will be provided (while they last), but participants are welcome to bring their own materials from home.

### Crafts to Go

**June 05 | 12 pm**

Feeling crafty on the go? Grab one of our craft kits available all month long (while supplies last.)

### Operation Comic Book, June 05 | 4 pm

Write and illustrate your own comic books with Operation Comic Book.

### South Sound Booth Orientation

**Wednesday, June 07 | 4:30 pm**

Beome a patron of the South Sound Booth and use our audio, video, and streaming capabilities. This orientation teaches the policies and basics to start learning and using the equipment. (Ages 13 to adults.)

## CPL Jefferson Campus



### 0 to 3: Read to Me Playdates

**Friday, May 12 | 10:30 am**

Building your child's brain is as simple as reading, singing, playing and talking! Join us as we read engaging books and sing lively songs with plenty of time for playing and talking! For children ages 0 to 3 (36 months) and parent or other adult family member. Siblings welcome. Giveaways! Questions? Call 216-623-7114. These programs are made possible by a generous grant from The Bruening Foundation.

Register and browse a complete listing of upcoming 0 to 3: Read to Me programs at [cpl.org/kids-teens/kindergarten-readiness/0-to-3-read-to-me/](http://cpl.org/kids-teens/kindergarten-readiness/0-to-3-read-to-me/)

### My Digital Life: Computer Basics

**Monday, May 13 | 11:00 am**

Computers can seem complicated, but learning some basic terms and ideas can help a lot. This module will introduce you to the words that we use when talking about computers. We will also learn the idea behind how a computer works, and how parts of a computer connect together to make the computer a very useful tool.

### Once Upon A Family Storytime

**Saturday, May 13 | 11:00 am**

Join us for a story time for all ages. Stories, crafts, songs and more to celebrate the tales that delight all of us.

### Let's Play with Pen & Paper.

**Thursday, May 18 | 4:30 pm**

Use pen and paper to create word-based art.

### Beginning Acrylic Painting

**Saturday, May 20 | 2:00 pm**

Gather with neighbors and library staff to explore the basics of acrylic painting in a fun, lightly-facilitated atmosphere. All supplies will be provided and space is limited. Need more information? Call 216-623-7004 or email [jefferson.branch@cpl.org](mailto:jefferson.branch@cpl.org).

### 0 to 3: Read to Me Playdates

**Friday, May 19 | 10:30 am**

Building your child's brain is as simple as reading, singing, playing and talking! Join us as we read engaging books and sing lively songs with plenty of time for playing and talking! For children ages 0 to 3 (36 months) and parent or other adult family member. Siblings welcome. Giveaways! Questions? Call 216-623-7114. These programs are made possible by a generous grant from The Bruening Foundation.

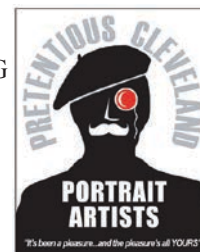
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## Forest City Brewery The Pretentious Cleveland Portrait Artists

PORTRAIT PAINTING

Friday, May 26

7:30 PM to 10:30 PM



**Friday, May 26, 2023**

**7:30 PM 10:30 PM**

**Forest City Brewery**

**Hosted in The Clubhouse every 4th Friday of the month.**

The Pretentious Cleveland Portrait Artists are portrait artists who meet every Friday night to draw the portrait of whomever signed up to pose. No money is ever exchanged as the model poses for portraits.

We are unique as we prefer to draw in front of the public, all the models come from the public, and the public is welcome to draw with us.

Join the group on Facebook to learn more.

**HOWARD HANNA**

IS 2023 THE YEAR TO BUY OR SELL A HOUSE WITH ME?

ALSO, THAT'S MY HUSBAND! →

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BEAUTY IS TRUTH TO ONE'S SELF



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