

FREE



The

# tremonger

A Tremont Neighborhood Newspaper by and for Tremongers | TheTremonger.org

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## TOST: More Than Just a Sandwich Store



**Tost**  
Owner & Chef  
Tommy Karakostas

*"Tommy is seeing that potential and he has definitely started to work on filling that need. He is already carrying a great selection of items and as the neighborhood responds to it, he intends to increase his selections which would include fruits and vegetables (along with additional items)." -Dave Farrante*

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# TREMONSTER CONTEST: Where's the Bird?



Submit your answer to win a Fat Cats gift certificate:

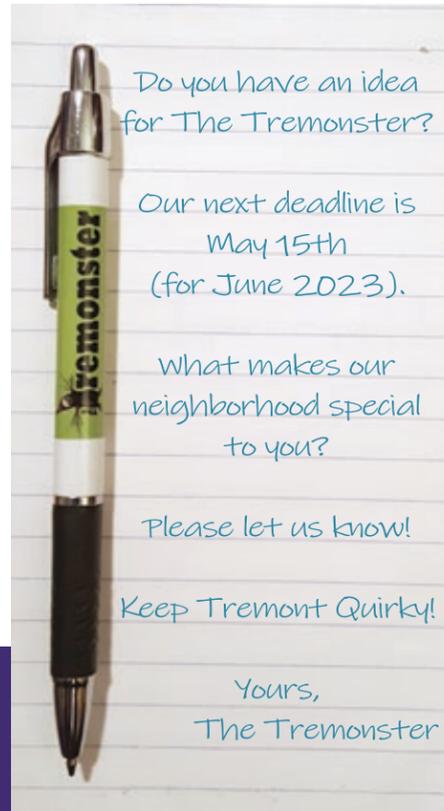


Scan to enter! ...or email or snail mail!

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

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

**GRAND PRIZE:**  
**\$25 gift certificate to Fat Cats!**  
*\*Submit your answer to win today!\**



Do you have an idea for The Tremonster?

Our next deadline is May 15th (for June 2023).

What makes our neighborhood special to you?

Please let us know!

Keep Tremont Quirky!

Yours,  
The Tremonster

## Experience Tremont HISTORY

**Tremont History Project Meeting**  
In-person and Virtual  
May 18, 2024 @ 10:30 AM  
Jefferson Branch Library

The Tremont History Project's mission is to research, preserve, and celebrate the rich history of our community. All are welcome!

[tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com](mailto:tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com)  
[www.tremonthistory.org](http://www.tremonthistory.org)



**2662 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 1954**  
SW corner of W 14<sup>th</sup> & Auburn Avenue  
Pictured from left to right: Zion School, IGA Supermarket, R&S 5¢ to \$1, Ann's Beauty, and W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street Drugs.  
All these buildings are still standing.

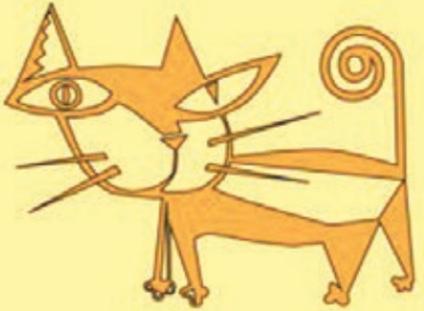
2601 West 10th Street | Tremont | Cleveland

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**216-772-0664**

Ask about our seasonal specials, our digital advertising, and our discounts for Tremont businesses and organizations!



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

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**Amanda Lloyd** Managing Editor

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[ScottRadkeArt.com](http://ScottRadkeArt.com)

*The Tremonster* Mascot: Abbey

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Report lost pets to the Tremont Animals Lost and Found Facebook group!  
Search: "Tremont Animals Lost and Found" on Facebook



# TOST: More Than Just a Sandwich Store



TOST Sandwich Café, 2341 Scranton Rd., offers sandwiches and quality grocery items seven days a week from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Photos by Rich Weiss

**by The Tremontster**

TOST Sandwich Café (2341 Scranton Rd., open seven days a week from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm) is the brainchild of Tommy Karakostas, owner and chef. But if we look a little deeper than the quality sandwiches, Tremontsters will find the beginnings of a new grocery store for Tremont.

Tommy said he had the idea to offer the quality groceries some time ago. He thought, “I’m serving deli. I’m serving desserts and gelato. Why don’t I get an all-in-one and serve some specialty items that go towards the deli concept—whether it be canned fish, which is really popular now, like sardines and octopus and mussels—throw in some neat little chocolates or candies, something unique out there? Whether it be meat, mustards—different mustards from local companies—or just unique product that you’re not going to find in a Giant Eagle or Dave’s or Aldi’s.” He added, “I can support products from Greece, whether it means Greek cheeses or Greek pastas, little things like that.”

Tommy launched his original location in Lakewood, the city of his birth. Tommy said the original location was “initially just a deli shop: just sandwiches, deli salads.” He added, “And both of those parts of a deli shop are personal love: I love deli sandwiches; I love deli salads in terms of potato salad and coleslaw and pasta salads.”

Tommy opened TOST because he felt the City of Cleveland should be in the mix when great city sandwiches are discussed. “I’ve had lots of sandwiches from different states and different regions that are notorious and famous for that, whether it be in New York or down in Florida. But I wanted to make it more of what Cleveland is about. We’re a nice working middle-class type of a city. I wanted to find a quality product, which is always number one.”

But just as much of a priority at TOST is consistency.

“I didn’t want to carry 10 different types of meats from 10 different companies. Same with the cheeses. So, we found this distributor who has an Amish company called Troyer, and they carry a wide variety of meats and cheeses and it’s consistent. It’s all from one company, so I know it’s going to be a quality product that they put out and a quality product that I can serve. And I tasted it, obviously, and it was very, very good. I have a good deli meat and cheese section.”

But don’t skip over the selection of quality goods on the shelves in the spacious grocery section or you might miss the pickled eggs, candied jalapenos, pickled beets, Moroccan tomato sauce, and baby

gherkins.

“And then it was the breads,” Tommy said, as he proudly eyed his tall rack for fresh breads. “With the breads, I have a history with a company out of Pittsburgh called Mediterra who sell breads here in Cleveland, at the West Side Market, as well as many other restaurants—a personal thing for me, because I’m a hundred percent Greek: they’re a Greek-family-owned company. So, it made it a little extra special for me because I definitely like to support (not only my local companies but also) my ethnic companies.”

We asked Tommy how he decided to name his business “TOST.”

Tommy said, “We have here, in America, a lot of concepts that they don’t have in Europe. Europe has a lot of concepts that we don’t have here, in America. So, what’s popular there? Panini sandwiches, which are called ‘tost.’ That’s how I got the name. I just spelled it the Greek style without the ‘A.’ So it’s not ‘Tossed,’ it is ‘TOST’ (I wasn’t going to put the German accent mark on top of the ‘O’ because it’s Greek and not German). So that’s how I got the name, initially, and that’s how I decided to make all the sandwiches panini-pressed.”

The idea of including a grocery was drawn from the same origin. Tommy explained, “When I grew up in Greece, I was always having those sandwiches—but they had a concept that was an all-in-one [grocery], also.”

Tommy told us Tremont developer Dave Ferrante invited him to open a second location in Tremont but asked Tommy to expand the grocery store.

“Dave Ferrante—I’m sure he’s well known around here—he approached me, and he goes, ‘I love your concept. I have a building with a space that I would love you to do this in, but I want a bigger market because there’s nothing here. Would you mind expanding it and adding some groceries too?’

And I came out here, looked at it, and I go, ‘Yeah, why not? I’m all in. I want to open up a second one, too. I’ll go for it.’”

The Tremontster reached out to Dave Ferrante, who replied to our request for comment by email, in which he said: “I felt that although Tremont had a few decent in-and-out marts, no one was really putting it all together with more consistently stocked and varied offerings that would include items you would normally only find in a larger supermarket.”

Dave wrote, “There has been a lot of talk in the past of someone opening a grocery store, but it never seemed to get off the ground. I felt the neighborhood needed a local grocer (I know I’m not alone on that



thought). Tommy is seeing that potential and he has definitely started to work on filling that need. He is already carrying a great selection of items and as the neighborhood responds to it, he intends to increase his selections which would include fruits and vegetables (along with additional items).”

Tommy has built it, but will they come? Dave believes they will.

“I feel he has already been a great addition to Tremont but not sure if everyone knows he is operating. He’s willing to work within the neighborhood’s needs. So, the more people who patronize the grocery side of his business the more he will invest in it. It could be a real win-win for Tommy and the neighborhood,” he wrote. “...really the bottom line is the neighborhood has a good chance at a small grocery store, but they need to support it. He’s willing to double down on it.”

Tommy wants to offer breakfast sandwiches soon, and open an hour earlier, at 7:00 am. He began listing his dream breakfast menu: “Meat breakfast sandwiches, even with our deli meats, but also with breakfast meats.”

For the grocery to expand, Tommy is waiting to see exactly what Tremontsters need.

“People know that Giant Eagle and Aldi’s have their research and development departments and know what to buy and what not to buy, things like that. But for me, it’s more of a trial and error a little bit. For example, the ketchups and mustards are not just Heinz. I went out to try to find all local companies, if I can. I went with Cleveland Ketchup Company, and they have a whole line of ketchups, mustards, and mayonnaises. I wanted to have as many local companies first before I go into national brands. It’s always a priority for me. I lived in Cleveland my whole life—I’m 53. Whatever I can do to support them as well, I’m going to do.”

TOST is already seeing signs of success: “It’s reassuring that people are coming here and just grocery shopping and not even buying a sandwich,” Tommy said. And the future looks good for his location

at the corner of Kenilworth Ave. and Scranton Ave. “In the new high-rises that are going up are a lot of single people, new couples, or married couples that are looking for either unique products or just something to eat for that meal—not even for the day,” he said. “And that’s what I wanted to offer as well.”

But what was most attractive to the owner-chef of TOST was his Tremont location’s past.



“Initially, my parents came to America in 1969. I tell a lot of the customers when we get into a conversation that Scranton Road—and specifically this half mile of the road—was Greek Town.” Tommy gazed out his oversized store windows at the houses across the street. “All these houses from here to The [Wagner] Awning Company were Greek-owned because our Greek church is right around the corner, Annunciation [Greek Orthodox Church].” This was the pattern with Greek immigrants at the time: “Everywhere in America—back in the 40s and the 60s—when the Greeks immigrated here, they wanted to go where they would be more comfortable and secure. So, they would move near a Greek church; that’s what they did back then,” Tommy explained. “This is Scranton where all the homes were. They weren’t on West 14th, over there. (He extended his arms to emphasize his small section of Scranton Rd.) This was full of Greeks. My parents’ first home was here (for the first two years) before they moved to Lakewood. And that’s where I was born a couple years later. But this (Tommy gestured to his section of Scranton Rd.) was all Greeks. And there’s still a couple Greek families that live here, 60 years later. But yeah—between here and our church, it was all Greek Town.”



Photo courtesy of TOST

**UH-OH HOT DOG:** Two grilled hot dogs with sweet coleslaw, BBQ sauce, cheddar cheese, and crunchy potato sticks on your choice of bread... only \$10.



Photo courtesy of TOST

Vegetable Chili



Tommy Karakostas, TOST Owner and Chef



**Ken Scigulinski's Memories Of Tremont Avenue**

# A Summer Day in the 1940s



“Moat” in front of Tremont School, today

Photo by Rich Weiss

by Ken Scigulinsky

Cleveland had the correct vision in the 1940s. The city recognized that children throughout the city needed to have some kind of program during the summer to provide recreation and activities. The summer program at Tremont School was one of those very successful programs.

On weekday mornings, my mom would awaken my sisters and I before 8 am, pulling clothes out of our dresser. I would dress myself, but my younger sisters would get some help. My dad would already have departed for Republic Steel, catching the local bus on Professor Ave., and then transferring in Cleveland to the East Side. Accordingly, we would have breakfast without him.

My mom was always eager to get us out of the house after breakfast, so we would have to decide what we would do. For a couple of weeks during the summer, I attended the week-long Day Camp at Merrick House so I would get a bag lunch and be on my way. Otherwise, I would frequently go right to the Tremont School playground. My sisters usually would walk a few houses down Tremont Ave. toward Professor Ave. to connect

with their two girlfriends, Joanne and Julieanne, twins about their age. I'm not sure how they spent the time, but I recall they would draw on the sidewalk with pieces of broken chalkware figurines, or they would play in the small semi-grassy area in front of one of the houses on Tremont Ave.

Arriving early at the playground was important because I wanted to help put up the swings and have my work noted (we received points for helping with the playground equipment). The playground staff arrived early in the morning to unlock the school building and to lug out the swings for hanging. The playground equipment was removed every evening and stored in the school building until the next day (the entrance used for the summer programs was not the main school entrance, but the one near the auditorium). I used to love climbing up the swing structure to connect the swings in the morning and disconnect them in the evening. The staff kept records of kids that assisted, and at summer's end there was a party for all who assisted and there were prizes, such as tickets to Euclid Beach Amusement Park.

The staff consisted of two to three

young adults, male and female and probably college age, who were hired for the summer to manage playground activities and events. All were very kind, personable, and easy to interact with. Most of the time they stayed on the playground, but upon occasion they escorted kids to special events, such as a competitive field event with other playgrounds at Rhodes High School in Brooklyn, making and flying kites at Metropolitan Park, or the performance of our talent show band at Karamu House on E. 89th. The talent show band is one of my most memorable events because a group of about 10 of us had fun working together to construct toy band instruments using simple objects. We then learned a song to accompany the instruments. With guidance from the playground staff, we constructed our instruments: rubber bands stretched across a cigar box became a banjo; beans in a Quaker Oats canister became maracas; a rubber balloon stretched over an empty can functioned as a drum, and someone loaned us an old-fashioned washboard. Our band practiced singing our single song for many days, always arguing about who got to play an instrument. On the day of the performance, the staff escorted us on public transportation to Karamu House, where we watched a few other kid groups perform, and then nervously took the stage. Accompanied by our crude instruments we sang repetitions of “Momma’s little baby loves shortnin’, shortnin’, Momma’s little baby loves shortnin’ bread.” While we performed, the audience laughed and applauded. It was very well received by the organizers, and the playground staff seemed overjoyed with our performance.

The playground also had a teeter-totter (see-saw), areas for softball that were usually occupied with older kids, and a sandbox under a tree near W.10th for younger kids. The entire playground was covered with fine gravel and was usually dusty. Once, some kind of white crystalline material that seemed almost greasy was spread all over the playground from 25 lb. bags to reduce the dust. It seemed to be effective for a while. I wouldn't be surprised to find that substance is now on the EPA's hazardous materials list.

Tremont School had an unusual feature along the front of the building: a kind of dry moat or trench between the playground and the basement of the building. I suspect it was designed so that the basement rooms would have the benefit of daylight. The moat was protected by a heavy steel fence to prevent anyone from falling in. Upon occasion, a ball would be hit that landed in the moat, and someone would have to retrieve it. The spacing between the pickets was too narrow for anyone to fit through, but there was a larger space where the end of the fence was attached to the building next to summer entrance. I was a very skinny youngster that could squeeze in that space, so I was usually called upon to recover the ball. I always liked to hear the cheers afterwards.

If you paid three cents a day in advance, at noon the next day you were entitled to receive half a pint of milk in a glass bottle with a few graham crackers. Although the milk was usually warm, it was always a welcomed treat. The milk was delivered in the morning and stored in the school basement. It was a special privilege to be one of the two people selected to go into the relatively cool basement and carry out the metal rack holding the bottles.

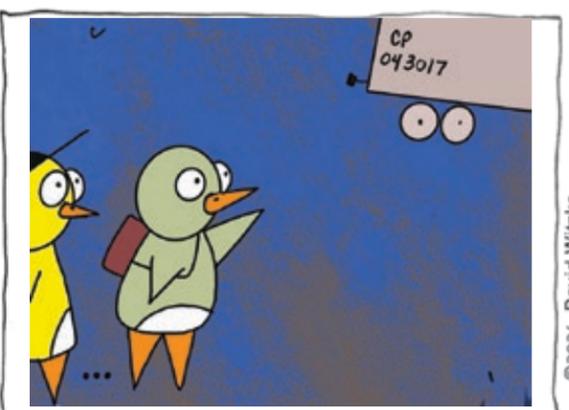
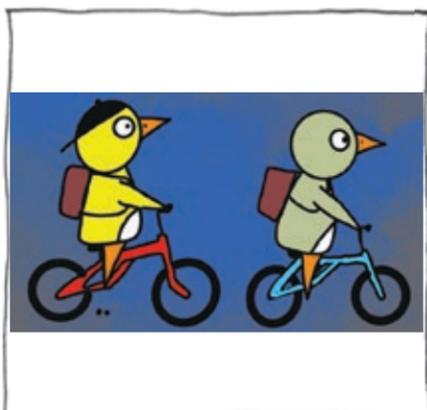
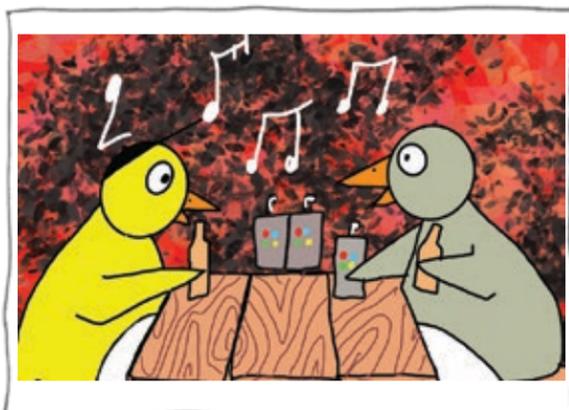
It was not unusual to spend most of the day on the playground. You might think it would become boring after a short while, but when you are engaged with friends—talking, joking, and running around—it keeps you going. There were often special events to hold our interest, such as non-serious boxing matches, a clown show, bubble gum blowing contests, etc. Throughout the summer, special attractions like a traveling zoo entertained kids at playgrounds all over the city. Show Wagon was a nighttime event that also drew in many adults with performers singing, dancing, and doing acrobatics. I always tried to get back to the playground after supper to take down the swings and return them to the school building.



## The Adventures of Tremont and His Friends

“Slayer for the Cats’ Tleadnasty.” part 1

The Signby/1972 *David Witzke*



**Natasha Pogrebinsky's Diaries of a Chef**

# Kebabs for Peace



Photo courtesy of Natasha Pogrebinsky

**Peace Jam - a nonviolent anti-war action group.** Here at a Peace Jam Concert organized by us in Downtown Cleveland in early 2000s. Chef Natasha is 3rd person from the right.

**by Natasha Pogrebinsky**

Watching the students protest around the country reminds me of my own student activism days. We met at the Arabica in Little Italy almost daily to discuss, debate, and plan. A group of us published a zine with articles from local, national, and international contributors, as well as local artists and photographers to bring attention to the war crimes and injustices committed around the world and at home by corrupt governments in the name of their citizens. We stood for something, we believed in something, we were so young, we loved so deeply, we debated each other so sincerely and wholeheartedly, we marched with Desmond Tutu, and did sit-ins and occupied public spaces. We believed in truth, in beauty, and most of

all, in ourselves. We believed we can and we will change the world for better; we believed we will be the drivers of peace and freedom. We were naïve, and confident, and devoted. We documented riot police mace and use police horses to trample people. We bailed out our arrested brothers and sisters, we voted, we cared. And then we grew up, and now the next generation is carrying the flame we carried from our predecessors. It's inspiring, it's nostalgic, and it gives me hope. When we met up in coffee shops, apartments, on stoops and porches, and in backyards, we always cooked our own meals.



Chef Natasha

There wasn't much delivery around back then, and as students we couldn't afford to go out. I found myself in the kitchen, at the grill, or at a makeshift bar, often making up random sandwiches, stews, salads for all my comrades. Today, I want to share a simple kebab recipe with roots in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. No matter where you stand politically, we can all come together over food and debate.

**Shopping pro tip:**

*Check out a GFS store in Lakewood and shop like the chefs. These are great sources for spices and international ingredients.*



Chicken Kebabs

**Chicken Kebabs**

- serves 4-6
- Ingredients:
- 6 pieces of chicken breast
- 2 red onions
- 3 oz sweet and smoky rub or rotisserie dry rub
- 3 oz olive or vegetable oil
- 6 bamboo spears or metal spears
- 1 oz powdered ginger
- 6 oz smoky bbq sauce
- 8 oz red wine vinegar or white vinegar
- 1 bag of pita bread
- 8 oz yogurt or sour cream
- 1 oz fresh or dry dill
- 1 cucumber

**Pre:**

Cut the chicken breast into 6 even cubes. Cut 1 onion into 4 and separate the layers. Place in a bowl with 2 oz oil and 2 oz rotisserie rub. Gently toss and let marinate for 20 minutes. Spear the chicken and onions onto a skewer.

Slice 1 red onion, place in small bowl and cover with vinegar, and set aside. Dice the cucumber and mix with dill and sour cream or yogurt. Set aside. Mix powdered ginger with bbq sauce. Set aside.

**Grill:**

Use any grill or even a flat frying pan. Add 1oz oil. Place your skewers on the grill or pan at least 1 inch apart. Grill on each side for 3 minutes. Remove from heat. Pour the ginger-bbq sauce over and sprinkle with rest of the rotisserie rub. Serve with warm pita and cucumber dip.

## Older, Wiser, Livelier, Seniors (OWLS Cleveland) April Meeting Notes



OWLS Cleveland April 10th meeting and luncheon

Photos by Bev Wurm

**by Bev Wurm**

OWLS Cleveland April 10th meeting and luncheon at 2700 W. 14th, Tremont Zion UCC Church, welcomed thoughts of spring. Bob Bucklew shared knowledge of gardening: best time to plant, small yard gardens, container gardens, and the annual Tremont gardeners' sale. Bob also provided small containers of spider plant starts for those who wanted to take one home. Ronald Rodriguez shared information on trees and gave out packets of wildflower mix. Mattie Matusik provided small planting pods, seeds, and potting soil for those wishing to start growing herbs.

Toni Bezek and Mattie provided rigatoni with meat balls, a meatless pasta dish, rolls, and butter. Desserts were Hostess Cake varieties including Twinkies. Coffee, tea, and water were also served. Door prizes of Girl Scout cookies were donated by Diane Kraynik. The May 8th meeting will include a taco bar, 50/50, raffle baskets, and favors. The speaker will be Dr. Ronan Factora from The Center for Geriatric Medicine, Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Call 216-310-6810 to RSVP for lunch. Made possible through a Neighborhood Connection grant.

**TREMONGER COMPETITION:**

# Tremont Flag Design Contest

Other Cleveland neighborhoods have their own flags...



Ohio City Flag



Old Brooklyn Flag



Gordon Square Flag

Will you help us design a neighborhood flag for Tremont?

Email attached PDF, JPG, or PNG to: [TheTremonger@TheTremonger.org](mailto:TheTremonger@TheTremonger.org) or mail non-returnable graphic to PO Box 6161, Cleveland, OH, 44101

**DEADLINE EXTENDED!**

\* Deadline: 11:59 p.m., May 15, 2024\*\*

\* Winning flag design will be selected by a panel of Tremont artists and will be announced in issue #84 of *The Tremonger*

\*\*No offensive designs accepted



# TWDC Annual Meeting and Vote 5/23



**Annual Meeting  
&  
Board Elections**

**THURSDAY, MAY 23RD | 6PM**  
**SCRANTON ROAD BIBLE CHURCH**  
3095 SCRANTON ROAD  
CLEVELAND, OH 44113

## Questionnaire for Nomination to the Tremont West Development Corporation Board of Directors

### SERONICA POWELL

#### 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, Three Arches Foundation Board

#### Please describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation.

My skills and expertise includes; 4+ years in public health management, 20+ years experience in 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 14+ 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 of Tremont West Development Corporation. Due to my knowledge and

experience, I believe I can offer continued progression in the right direction.

#### Membership on the TWDC Board of Directors requires a substantial commitment of time and energy. Please indicate the number of hours per month that you will be available as a member of the Board of Directors:

7 to 10

### BARBARA ANDELMAN

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

As soon as we moved into Tremont, I started attending the North of Tremont block club meetings. I've volunteered in the gardening/clean-up activities at Lincoln Park and have enjoyed the many festivals and events. When I heard about the 2024 Tremont Storefront Incubator Program at a Block club meeting, I took the initiative to share and post the opportunity through my connections. And I stay connected with neighbors through the *Tremont Friends and Neighbors* and the *Tremont-Buy Nothing/ Things for Free* Facebook pages.

#### Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years:

I'm very active as a Citizen Diplomat through the Cleveland Council on World Affairs, welcoming international visitors to Cleveland and our Tremont neighborhood. Also, prior to my current position, I was Vice President of Workforce Development at The Centers for Families and Children. I also served on the Board of Neighborhood Housing Services (see #3 below).

#### 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 served on the Board of the Oberlin Center for the Arts. I was also on the board of Neighborhood Housing Services and was chair of the board during its eventual merger with Cleveland Housing Network (CHN). I also serve on the advisory committee of USCRI-Cleveland (US Committee on Refugees and Immigrants).

#### Please describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation.:

I approach my board work from the perspective of someone who has served both as the executive director of an organization as well as a member of multiple boards. I'm pragmatic and outcome driven, focused on achieving the desired outcomes of the organization, thinking strategically while being realistic about available resources. I've been involved in the strategic planning process multiple times and enjoy working collaboratively and creatively to move an organization forward and having a vision for what would be achieved. I've served on a wide range of board committees, often drawing on my legal background. I understand the importance of supporting the work of the staff, and most of all, I bring a passion about Tremont, its historic past and current important role in the City of Cleveland.

#### Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation:

First and foremost, I love living in Tremont and would be honored to have the opportunity to be an official ambassador. I would like to work collaboratively to address challenges and opportunities to ensure that it continues to be a vibrant and thriving neighborhood, with a respect for the wide range of viewpoints represented by the residents and businesses.

#### Membership on the TWDC Board of Directors requires a substantial commitment of time and energy. Please indicate the number of hours per month that you will be available as a member of the Board of Directors:

15 hours

### JENNIFER TEMPLE

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

Chair, Irishtown Bend Block Club 2021 - current

#### Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years:

Volunteer, Canalway River Sweep; Lead, 1B community mural

#### 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):

Member, Irishtown Bend Park Working Group; Community Engagement Partner, Cleveland Zoo

#### Please select and describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation.:

Community Outreach, Community Representation, Fundraising, Sales/ Marketing, event planning/ operations

#### Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation:

I unexpectedly fell in love with the city and enjoy every minute of watching this area "find itself" in its current rebirth. It's fascinating and important to me on how we can develop, yet preserve; move forward, yet retain culture; create, yet honor. I hope to bring my experiences, enthusiasm and hope for the future to

the board, collaborating with an amazing group of citizens as we strive to move through the challenges and triumphs.

#### Membership on the TWDC Board of Directors requires a substantial commitment of time and energy. Please indicate the number of hours per month that you will be available as a member of the Board of Directors:

5-10 hours works well with my schedule

### JOHN JACKSON

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

I have been resident of Tremont since May 2021. In August 2022, I was unanimously appointed by the Board to fill a Board of Directors vacancy. In the last two years I have served on the Board of Directors attending monthly meetings, vice-chaired the Safety Committee, attended and volunteered for Celebrate Tremont, volunteered for the Arts & Cultural Festival, volunteered for Taste of Tremont, and volunteered to emcee an Arts in August performance at Lincoln Park. On a personal note I love to patron the weekly Farmer's Market and various Tremont businesses like Civilization Coffee, Comer 11, Polish Veterans Alliance Post 1, and Hotz.

#### Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years:

I am the Assistant Director for Community Partnerships in the Center for Service and Social Action (CSSA) at John Carroll University. In my role I network and communicate daily with nonprofit, charitable, and educational organizations. I manage relationships with about 90 organizations that JCU students volunteer with and learn from during the academic year. These organizations have various missions and focus on different populations/ causes; education, homelessness, workforce development, incarceration, refugees, developmental disabilities, public health, senior citizens, community development.

#### 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):

Previous to my time on the TWDC Board I served as a member on the Diocese of Cleveland's Prison Ministry Advisory Council because of my role at John Carroll University.

#### Please describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation:

I am a strong communicator, have a vast network of contacts in the Greater Cleveland Area in the nonprofit and education sector, I am reliable leader that volunteers and shows up when needed. My background is in education, I was classroom teacher for six years and earned my Masters of Education. This knowledge paired with my experience in relationship development through my current role at JCU allow me to relay information in clear way and work with groups from a diverse background. I have served the last two years on the Board and would also bring consistency as TWDC is going through a strategic planning process and have an Interim Executive Director.

#### Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation:

I am interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation because I love

# TWDC Annual Meeting and Vote 5/23

Tremont. I was resident from 2015-2018 and returned in 2021. I have enjoyed the last two years of serving on the Board, and feel like I have contributed my time and energy in positive ways serving on the Safety Committee and volunteering for major events put on by TWDC. As a young professional and renter in the neighborhood I bring a perspective of perhaps the more transient residents in the neighborhood.

**Membership on the TWDC Board of Directors requires a substantial commitment of time and energy. Please indicate the number of hours per month that you will be available as a member of the Board of Directors:**  
2-7 hrs

**PAHNITI (TOM) TOSUKSRI**  
**Please describe your involvement with the Tremont West Development Corporation or other Tremont clubs and activities during the last 5 years:**  
I've sat on the board since 2021, holding the positions of Secretary ('21-22) and Vice President ('22-present). As VP, I chair the Governance Committee and have worked to standardize and organize board processes and engagement, ensuring a strong, cohesive, and effective board. I also volunteer directly with Tremont West in a technology advisory capacity, helping implement Salesforce to assist with membership and programmatic tracking.

**Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years:**  
I work for Grounded Solutions Network, a national nonprofit dedicated to promoting, producing, preserving, and sustaining housing with lasting affordability that stays with the community. Previously, I worked for CHN Housing Partners for 13 years, a local community development organization initially formed by a coalition including TWDC and other community development corporations.

**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):**  
As part of my work at Grounded Solutions, I also sit on several housing and technology-related committees that focus on increasing housing opportunity and affordability, specifically focusing on disinvested communities and BIPOC populations.

**Please select and describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation.:**  
Community Outreach [Whatever is required by TWDC and partners]  
Community Representation [Whatever is required by TWDC and partners]  
Governance [Policies and Procedures]  
Real Estate [Affordable housing and Land Trust expertise]  
Technology [Salesforce and general Technology advisory]

**Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation:**  
I lived in Tremont over a decade ago as a renter and am now a homeowner raising my family here. It helped me see Cleveland in an optimistic light with opportunity and excitement. Over time, I've volunteered in a variety of capacities, and through relationship building, I've understood the challenges that TWDC, as an organization, faces to serve the community with the resources available. As TWDC navigates its next chapter with a new Executive Director and strategic plan, I hope to offer my experience and

talents as its next Board President to ensure we can continue to build a robust and vibrant community and organization that meets the needs of all community members in Tremont.

**Membership on the TWDC Board of Directors requires a substantial commitment of time and energy. Please indicate the number of hours per month that you will be available as a member of the Board of Directors:**  
10

**RONALDO RODRIGUEZ JR.**  
**Please describe your involvement with the Tremont West Development Corporation or other Tremont clubs and activities during the last 5 years:**  
I am a member of the South of Jefferson Block Club and co-chair of the Tremont History Project, a community group under TWDC. We work to capture and celebrate the rich and storied history of our neighborhood, its people, places, and institutions, with the understanding that any plans for our future require knowledge of our past. I've dedicated the bulk of my volunteerism efforts to the Tremont History Project because it builds community and helps people feel more connected to the neighborhood. I also volunteer for many Tremont-West events, including the Farmers Market, Walkabout, and the Arts and Cultural Festival.

**Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years:**  
I am a firm believer in that "to whom much is given, much is required." I am always looking for ways to give back. From keeping the grounds at my church, to picking up litter wherever I see it, I am grateful for every opportunity to make a difference. One way that I give back is through my writing. I work with various non-profit newsrooms to cover stories that are often overlooked by traditional mainstream media outlets. I recently wrote an article about "Creation Care," a collaboration of Near Westside churches that have developed an environmental ministry. The group is now holding an event in Tremont this June!

**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 part of the Cleveland VOTES Democracy Collective, an incubator program that works to promote equitable civic engagement. I am also actively engaged with the Young Latino Network and serve on the planning committee for a variety of organizations and events including Data Days CLE, Cleveland History Days, and River Sweep.

**Please select and describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation.:**  
Finance, Real Estate, Writing/Documentation. My professional background has mostly been related to banking and accounting in some way. I spent several years as a bookkeeper for the Clerk of Courts. My time with the city began as a City Planning Commission intern. I have a working knowledge of government finance and recently became a licensed real estate salesperson.

**Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation:**  
I am interested in serving on the Board of Directors because I am deeply rooted in Tremont and genuinely passionate about community engagement. I hope that by

serving, I can more actively participate in contributing to our collective growth and success.

I believe in the mission of Tremont-West, to "create an inclusive community and build a unified neighborhood." I am committed to carrying out the mission with other dedicated community members, because the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

**Membership on the TWDC Board of Directors requires a substantial commitment of time and energy. Please indicate the number of hours per month that you will be available as a member of the Board of Directors:**  
I am available for however many hours are needed.

**SHAWN MISHAK**  
**Please describe your involvement with the Tremont West Development Corporation or other Tremont clubs and activities during the last 5 years:**  
I have not really been involved with TWDC much, although I do, however, pay attention to the website and follow the events calendar and am familiar with all the block club meetings and what portions of the neighborhood each represents. I very much look forward to the opportunity to being more involved and to being a valuable addition to the board.

**Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years:**  
Last week I worked with Cleveland Rocks: Past, Present and Future, which is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support and preserve Cleveland's popular music culture and enrich local social welfare and economic growth by stimulating music-centered initiatives and for which I was the Assistant Director for over 3 years. I performed (I'm a musician) for their monthly 2 x 4 musical performance which also includes a talk/series teaching local musicians about synch licensing. This event is free and open to the public, helps achieve musicians as well as teach them industry concepts and offers resources to local musicians. Last summer I worked with the Clark Fulton Development Corporation, Neighborhood Connections, the city of Cleveland, Sherwin Williams (Donations), and community members and some fellow artists to prepare and to paint a 90-foot mural on West 25<sup>th</sup> across from the Pivot Center. This was featured twice on Channel 5 news. We also worked with the building owner, the artists, vendors, community members at large and members of the Guatemalan community to host a free community party to celebrate the mural unveiling which included an authentic Guatemalan band, food, local vendors, and a raffle. I wrote and released all the press communications for all of this as well as assisted with the grant writing process and meetings. Last summer I also volunteered with my neighborhood block club to pass out door hangers and to speak to my local community members about a barbeque we were having to celebrate the opening of the renovated Clark Field. In 2022 I performed for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Jefferson Branch Library. I have worked with Negative Space Gallery, and their non-profit organization for the past five years. Assisting with events, live performances, exhibitions, Holiday, Spring Summer sales, etc. I've curated art exhibitions in Tremont for over 22 years for which I do not charge a commission, are free and open to the public and part of Tremont Walkabout. We aim to give opportunities to local artists. This series is based on the 5 Classical elements (Fire, Water, Air, Earth, and opening in May with be, Aether). For each of these

exhibitions we have partnered with, and raised awareness of, non-profit organizations: Sea Shepard, Moms Clean Air Force, Earth Justice, and this exhibition we are raising money for and raising awareness of Clear Space which is an organization which was founded out of the realization that in-orbit servicing and space debris removal are vital services for the future of space exploration and operations. I volunteer to do this and do not charge a commission. I participate in my local block club meetings, and the farmer's market. I am currently volunteering with Parade the Circle as a collective to build a float and participate in the parade for 2024. I also just spoke with Grei about volunteering again this summer with Holmden Hill Community Gardens, which is on my street.

**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 not currently on any boards or committees, but I was the Arts Editor as well as a contributing writer for Scene Magazine from 2020-2023. In this position I worked with and covered Arts and Cultural events all over the city. I have also been a contributing writer to both CAN Art Journal and Cleveland Review of Books in the past few years. I also contributed a couple articles to The Tremontster in 2019 and 2020.

**Please select and describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation:**  
[Blank response]

**Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation:**  
I am interested in serving on the Board of Directors because I have been a resident and community member of Tremont for over 22 years. I have been instrumental in championing the neighborhood in its cultural renaissance since 1999. I am now a homeowner in the neighborhood and have been living here for 22 years. I care about this community which I have invested my entire adult life into and it's important that our community members are represented, and I particularly want to make sure that the longtime residents' perspective is considered and appreciated. I talk to my neighbors and listen to what their concerns are, and I hope to offer perspective and positive value to the board as we navigate the challenging decision making that development corporations are charged with.

I have seen such a dramatic evolution in this neighborhood over the years and am excited to be a conduit for the innovation, creativity, objectivity, and civic passion that I feel is needed to participate on a board which makes decision which can have a tremendous amount of gravity for our community members and business owners. My father was a teacher and councilman for over 40 years and always taught me to exercise objectivity and civic responsibility. I intend to carry on and carry out these values throughout my time on Tremont West Development Corporation Board of Directors.

**Membership on the TWDC Board of Directors requires a substantial commitment of time and energy. Please indicate the number of hours per month that you will be available as a member of the Board of Directors:**  
5-15 hours

# Tremonster To-Do List

Submit event listings to [TheTremonster@TheTremonster.org](mailto:TheTremonster@TheTremonster.org)

## Register Now for Summer Day Camp at Merrick House



by Zharyia Belcher

The Merrick House (1050 Starkweather Ave.) team is back with our Summer Day Camp!

Camp will be held for youth ages 6-13 years old, from 8:30 am-4:30 pm Monday through Friday.

If you have any questions or would like to register, please reach out to our Youth Program Coordinator, or come visit us at the Merrick House. We hope to see you all this summer!

Contact Merrick House at 216-771-5077 or [info@merrickhouse.org](mailto:info@merrickhouse.org).

## Boozy Bingo Brunch for Charity!



Have you been looking for some fun things to do?? Well we've got you covered! Join us for some Boozy Bingo Brunch for Charity! Kelly Kaz Entertainment & Edison's Pub & Brew Kettle are teaming up to give you a super fun Saturday afternoon of delicious drinks & awesome prizes! The BEST part is that it's FREE TO PLAY! Everyone gets 1 FREE bingo card! There will be FUN prizes for all the winners from Brew Kettle and homemade cookies from my sweet mother! This month we will be donating the proceeds from this event to WORLD WILDLIFE FUND! They protect the world's most beloved species, protect the habitats people and wildlife depend on, and much, much more! So...BRING SOME CASH! The proceeds go straight to the charity! To donate directly visit their website: <https://protect.worldwildlife.org> DM Edison's pub to reserve your seats! They will fill up fast!

## Input from Tremonsters Needed!

### City Seeks Resident Reactions to Parks and Recreation Plan Draft Recommendations

Four open houses are scheduled for May 14, 15, 16, and 17

By Rhonda Crowder

CLEVELAND - The Mayor's Office of Capital Projects (MOCAP) is in the second phase of planning the future of parks and recreation in the city of Cleveland. As preliminary recommendations for the long-range plan have been drafted, the City seeks reactions from residents. With that, a series of open houses are scheduled for **May 14, 15, 16, and 17**, on both the west and east sides of town.

The open houses are being organized by OLIN, the Philadelphia-based landscape architecture and planning firm selected to guide the planning process.

"Last summer, over 1,500 Clevelanders told us what they would like parks and recreation in the city to look like in the future," said Lucinda Sanders, Design Partner and CEO of OLIN.

Led by MOCAP, the 15-year master plan will create a roadmap that ensures just and fair capital investment in parks and recreation, providing equitable connections to quality parks and recreation activities while meeting the needs of city residents, community groups, and other stakeholders. During the upcoming open houses, residents will be able to view the draft recommendations and provide feedback. "We want to give Clevelanders the opportunity to see what we learned last summer, to review the major components of the long-range plan and to provide their reactions to help us further refine the plan," Sanders continued.

Seeking a diverse range of participation to ensure residents' voices are heard and translated in the final plans, **open houses will be held at the following locations:** **Michael Zone Neighborhood Resource & Recreation Center**, 6301 Lorain Ave., on **Tuesday, May 14** **Collinwood Neighborhood Resource & Recreation Center**, 16300 Lakeshore Blvd., on **Wednesday, May 15** **Estabrook Neighborhood Resource & Recreation Center**, 4125 Fulton Road, on **Thursday, May 16** and **Lonnie Burten Neighborhood Resource & Recreation Center**, 2511 E. 46th Street, on **Friday, May 17** All open houses will be held from **5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Light meals will be served. "Ultimately, the City seeks to create a dynamic and equitable network of parks and recreational facilities, enhance the quality of life and natural environment, preserve and steward the city's rich

cultural identities, and evolve with the needs of current and future generations of Clevelanders," Sanders added.

The three-phase planning process is expected to be completed this year. The goal of the second phase is to deliver a long-range plan that will reconcile existing conditions with the community needs assessment conducted last summer. The third phase entails a strategic plan outlining the best methods to finance and implement the long-range plan.

The City of Cleveland currently operates 179 unique parks and recreation sites, including 155 city parks, 23 recreation centers, and one golf course that total nearly 1,760 acres. These sites include 111 baseball fields, 108 playgrounds, 88 basketball courts, 70 tennis courts, 40 indoor or outdoor swimming pools, and hundreds of other public amenities and programs.

To learn more about the project visit [www.cleparksrcplan.com](http://www.cleparksrcplan.com).

The mission of MOCAP is to provide for the planning, designing, construction, and preservation of the City of Cleveland's facilities and infrastructure through collaborative and comprehensive planning, leadership in management, excellence in sustainable design and technical expertise, and quality construction based on integrity and professionalism. The office oversees the Division of Architecture and Site Development, the division of Engineering and Construction, and The Division of Real Estate.

OLIN is a nationally and internationally recognized studio with more than 40 years of experience in parks and recreation system planning and designing for the public realm. OLIN projects include a 25-year master plan to transform the post-industrial land along Philadelphia's Delaware River, the campus and gardens at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, the award-winning 11th Street Bridge Park in Washington, D.C., and the parks master plan for Oklahoma City. OLIN is also the team behind the Eastman Reading Garden at the Cleveland Public Library and the plaza and greenspace surrounding the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building. More about OLIN and the studio's work can be found at [parks.theolinstudio.com](http://parks.theolinstudio.com).

*Live poetry*  
**Friday 5/10, 7pm @ Visible Voice Books**

Readings from:  
*Philip Metres*  
*John James*  
*Zach Savich*  
*Bridget Lowe*  
*Dave Lucas*

Tremont History Project presents:  
**Historic Tremont Church Tour Series, Spring 2024**

Join us for a series of visits to a selection of Tremont's historic churches.  
 Admission is free - Registration is recommended

Sat. 5/11 @ 2pm:  
 St. Andrew Kim  
 Korean Catholic Church  
 2310 W.14th St.

Sat. 5/18 @ 2pm:  
 St. George  
 Antiochian Orthodox Church  
 2587 W.14th St.

Sat. 5/25 @ 11am:  
 St. John Cantius Church  
 906 College Ave.

REGISTER online by scanning the QR code above, or visit: [www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2024spring](http://www.bit.ly/tremontchurchtour2024spring)

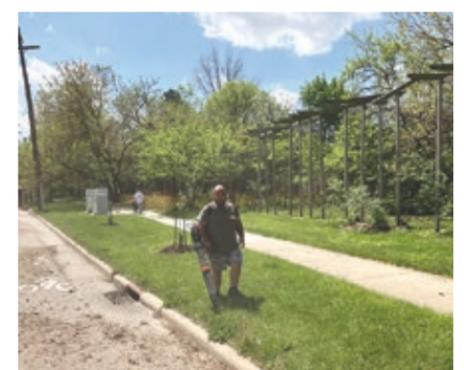
For more information, contact:  
[tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com](mailto:tremonthistoryproject@gmail.com)  
 216-457-0693  
 Visit: [www.tremonthistory.org](http://www.tremonthistory.org)

## Forest City Brewery Taco Tuesdays 4 to 6 pm



Are you looking for delicious tacos to consume on this fine Tuesday? Come on out to enjoy our Taco Tuesday offerings!! They're also on special for happy hour from 4-6pm, our kitchen is open until 10pm. They're only available on Tuesday, so don't miss out!!

## Tremonsters Caught on camera!



Ronaldo Rodriguez Jr. (foreground) and Bob Bucklew (background) were spotted working at the end of April on Tremont's W 14 St. community garden spring cleanup.