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remonger

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Abbey Park makeover includes a beautiful, safe place to play



"To each of you who made the beautiful new playground in our Abbey Park, we want to let you know just how much we appreciate the amazing transformation you've made. The end product is stunning—so well designed and carried out."

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Please join us to discuss Tremont news and any content ideas for The Tremonster every Tuesday, any time between 4:45 and 5:45 pm, at the Cleveland Public Library Jefferson Branch, 850 Jefferson Ave. Bring your artwork, your poetry, your neighborhood news tips, your creativity, or your ideas on how we can improve our neighborhood paper. If the meeting time does not work for you, please let us know at TheTremonster@TheTremonster.org.

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Tremont History Project Meeting In-person and Virtual June 21, 2025 @10:30 AM Jefferson Branch Library

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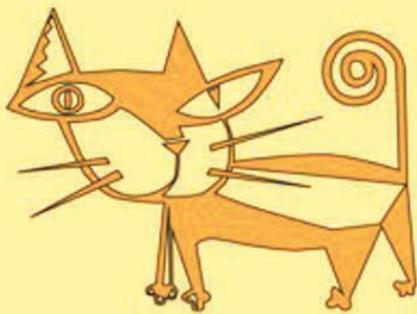
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Rich Weiss Publisher Amanda Lloyd Managing Editor

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Thanks to Scott Radke, for the contribution of our logo character for The Tremonster.

ScottRadkeArt.com

The Tremonster Mascot: Abbey

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Flower on Freeman Opens a New Concept in the Former Duck Island Club



Photos by Rich Weiss

Flower on Freeman updates are striking and noticeable to those passing through Duck Island..

by The Tremmonster

Owner Melissa Cole and Manager Matty Jarrell launched Flower on Freeman (2102 Freeman Ave.) together in the former home of the Duck Island Club in April. The Tremmonster caught up with Melissa and Matty soon after Flower on Freeman opened its doors.

From the curb, it's difficult to miss the many loving, meticulous changes to the building facade and side patio. Step inside Flower on Freeman and it feels like you're taking a step into an environment where time passes more slowly. Everywhere your eye lands, there is something unique, something captivating, something extra. "That's why we did everything we did here," explained Melissa. "It's this piece of stone; it's all the different fabrics used. It's all stimulation. That's food, that's music, that's cocktails. It's all about stimulating the senses, right?"

According to Melissa, she didn't feel like she was making the decision about how the space would be used: "The space became available, and I think it decided what it wanted to be." Rather than forcing an identity on her 6,000 square foot space, Melissa feels like she's letting the space make the creative decisions. "That's just how I feel most things are," she explained. "I think a home will tell you how it wants to be renovated if you just take a moment with it. This kind of just evolved."

Matty confirmed: "I came over to the space with Melissa one day. She wanted to show me this special little space. I fell in love with the space right off the bat," he said. "You can't not fall in love with

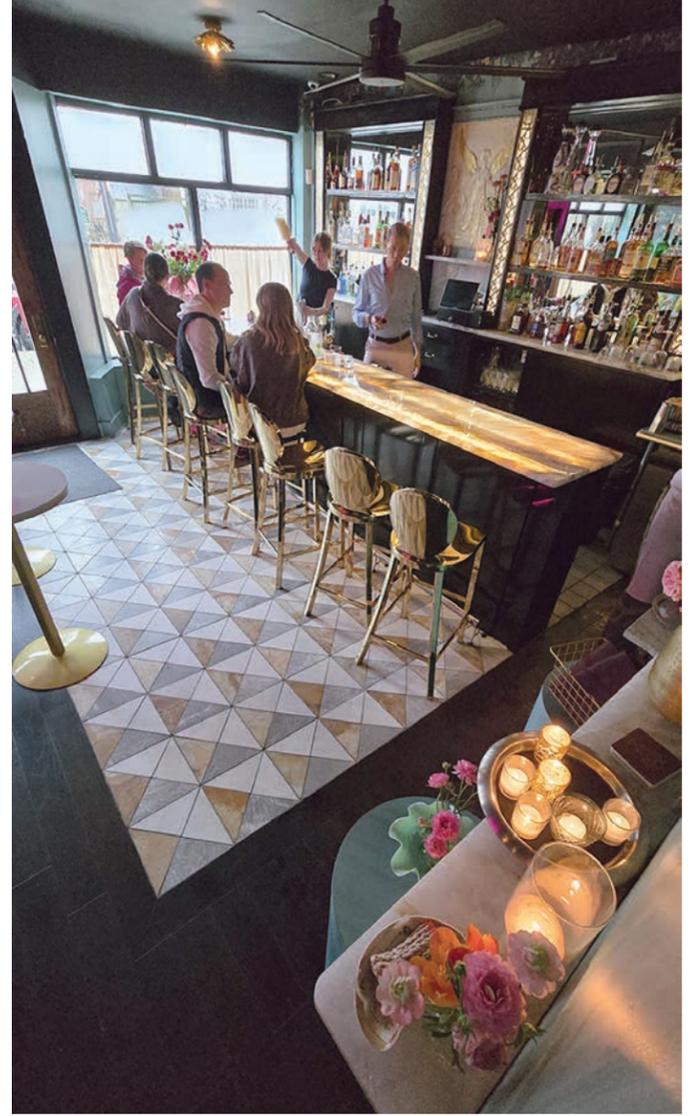
it. And then we started working on some cocktail ideas, throwing ideas around, thinking about different things. And then, things just started happening right after that. Things fell into place...the more you stay in this space, the more the ideas just kind of showed up."

The space called on Melissa and Matty to create an environment to host neighborhood and family rituals. "People joining in ritual, in community, taking a moment, being intentional," said Melissa. "Actually, the whole ritual of tea services kind of brings it together." Matty recalled, "Melissa talked about teatime. I thought about cocktail ideas. And then she was showing me glassware and different ideas."

Once their concept had taken shape, the two were off and running.

"Then you just start thinking about creative, innovative, fresh ingredients," said Matty. "There were no boundaries to any ideas or cocktails that Melissa wanted. It was a place to drink and dream."

Melissa described when Tremmonsters should think of Flower on Freeman: "Pre-dinner cocktails; post-dinner cocktails; hanging out. Yeah, just being together." Melissa added, "Whether it be a small intimate event or hanging out with a girlfriend, taking a walk, stopping by bringing your puppy." The pair are proud of the resulting establishment. Matty summed up, "Everything's fresh, everything's thoughtful, everyone's involved. It's a place for everybody. It was a very collaborative idea. It took a team of people."



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Keri November's American Sign Language Classes Hold a Reunion at Roasted



Photos by Rich Weiss

Keri November leading an activity for her first American Sign Language classes reunion at Rosted Tremont.

by Rich Weiss

Keri November teaches an American Sign Language (ASL) course at Cleveland Public Library's Jefferson Branch (850 Jefferson Ave.). Recently, class alumni and friends got together for a reunion at Roasted Cafe.

The Tremonster stopped by the ASL class reunion to ask for thoughts from Keri's ASL class alumni: Michelle Rock said, "Keri is my next-door neighbor. So, it's helpful to pick up some ASL. It's a very useful skill just to be able to

communicate—not only with the deaf community, but also with anyone across the room who happens to know ASL (or in a loud room). My partner and I both took the class. It's a very useful skill and Keri is a wonderful teacher. We filled that library side room at the Jefferson Library—15 to 20 [students] in there. It was

there." For Olivia, the class location was an added attraction. "I also work at a different library. I'm just a library lover in general, so I got to go to the library every week, and that was just like a fun little bonus."

Keri voiced for herself: "Offering the classes at the library really showed me how dedicated the community is to get to know me, as a resident, and how much time and effort they're willing to put in to communicate with me. It's not something I've ever experienced. Where I'm from, New York City, no one would ever take the time to communicate with me; whereas in Tremont, random strangers will dedicate eight weeks just to be able to communicate with me. And it shows how much they value communication—how much they respect me as a person. It's a very special thing to be a Tremonster." Registration is now open for Keri November's Intermediate American Sign Language course, ASL 2 (completion of ASL 1 required—email the CPL Jefferson Branch for upcoming dates). Email the Cleveland Public Library's Jefferson Branch or register by **scanning this code:**



To read about Keri's personal history discovering Tremont (recently republished from her original submission to *The Tremonster* in 2022), please visit TheTremonster.org. *Jeremy Biello* contributed to this report.

healthy; there were lots of conversations to be had. It's a wonderful way to get to know a lot of my neighbors. A lot of the people that took this library class live in the Tremont community."

Lisa Wiborg volunteered to try voice-interpreting a statement from Keri in sign language.

"I appreciate that you're not shying away from this," Keri voiced for herself.

Lisa noted, "Can I just say how important it is that we face each other so that I can read her better."

Then, Lisa voice interpreted as Keri signed: "Classes are offered for students—however many are in the class. [Keri has] had classes before in the library and then, again, in the summer. It shows me how excited people are to communicate sign with me."

Keri added in sign (voiced by Lisa), "This last class was fun! To sign up for the next Jefferson Library ASL class, email jefferson.branch@cpl.org or check for new classes in *The Tremonster*."

When we asked ASL student Olivia for her perspective on Keri's class, she said, "I probably had a little bit of a different experience. I actually took four semesters of sign language in college. I graduated a while ago, so, obviously, I lost a lot of it. So, this has been really awesome. I'm remembering a lot of stuff."

Olivia described how easy it was for her to take Keri's Jefferson Library ASL class: "I would get home from work, hang out a little bit, and then I would go. I live right on the same block as the library, so I would just walk



American Sign Language Class Graduates were eager for a chance to exercise their sign language skills.

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Better Know Tremont West Development Corp.

Abbey Park Updates and New Duck Island Playground



Photos by Rich Weiss

Abbey Park updates include a new Duck Island playground.

kids who visit it daily, it is a complete hit with them and their grateful parents. To see the complete joy on their faces and in their laughter is absolutely priceless.

Jim McKnight, we cannot thank you enough for being with us from the beginning as we envisioned a new improved Abbey Park. We thank you for listening to our ideas, answering endless emails, and creating drawings that helped us imagine what could be done. You, along with **Council Representative Kerry McCormack** are our heroes for suggesting Abbey Park to be one of the 17 new playgrounds built across the city. We feel very fortunate indeed. And thank you **Michael and Mark** for all you did behind the scenes to see these beautiful playgrounds come to fruition. **Jamey**, your design of the playground is incredible. There is not a single piece of equipment that the kids don't love. We particularly love the separate area for the younger kids—many parents

occasionally pestered them with questions. And we especially thank you for going above and beyond by filling in the holes and removing those pesky bollards in the green space. That space is an active ball field for so many of the bigger kids in the neighborhood and a favorite place for pups of all sizes to run around, so thank you for helping make it safer and more open for play.

Elaine Borawski submitted this letter to The Tremontster on behalf of the Friends of Abbey Park Committee of the Duck Island Block Club, Stephanie Filar, David LaSalvia, Shannon Copfer Brace, and Duck Island Block Club Leadership, originally published as an email this past November.

Councilman McCormack, thank you for going to bat for us in landing one of the new playgrounds. We greatly appreciate your support, and all the support we receive from **Tremont West—Julie and Scott**: thank you! We held a small celebration in Abbey Park on Sunday, November 10th. Duck Island neighbors gathered for some hot chocolate and snacks and watched all the kids enjoy the fruit of our hard labor. Thank you again to all who participated in the Abbey Park renovations. You've made many duck island residents, big and small, so happy!



by Elaine Borawski

THANK YOU!

To each of you who made the beautiful new playground in our Abbey Park, we want to let you know just how much we appreciate the amazing transformation you've made. The end product is stunning—so well designed and carried out. And as evidenced by the dozens of

of toddlers have commented on how wonderful (and safe) it feels in that space for their little ones. And, needless to say, the big kids are loving your choice of equipment. But truly, the best part is when folks notice all the neighborhood centric (i.e., ducks) signage and features. We are so grateful too that you listened carefully to the suggestions made by residents, particularly **Chris Blue**, who spent hours combing through the catalogs to make specific suggestions on equipment and signage (thank you, Chris!). To see these suggestions manifested in the plans was amazing. By the way, the hillside slide is so cool!

To the **Plattens (Joe and Joe)**, you and your crew did an absolutely amazing job of transforming the space into the beautiful place it has become. Everything was so well implemented, and your guys could not have been more respectful or nicer—especially when we



The Duck Island Playground was in full use by Zane, Kamari, Legacy, and many others upon our arrival.

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Tremont West Annual Meeting and Board Elections at 6pm on 5/15



Annual Meeting & Board Elections

THURSDAY, MAY 15th | 6PM
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by **Julie Dahlhausen**, Executive Director,
 Tremont West Development Corporation

Dear Tremont, this year's Tremont West Annual Meeting and board of directors election will be held Thursday, May 15th 2025 at Scranton Road Bible Church (3095 Scranton Road) at 6 pm. Please join us for a light dinner followed by the Annual Meeting. Per a change to the Code of Regulations in 2021, Tremont West is now able to have early voting beginning May 1st.

Early voting is available Monday May 1st (9 am) through Thursday May 15th, 2025 (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 19th.

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
 - Pahniti (Tom) Tosuksri
- Candidates for Board of Directors
 - Jaime Declat
 - Jonathan Greever
 - Lauren Lampley
 - Austin Love
 - Deborah Smith
 - Stephen Wojtila

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 me at juliedahlhausen@tremontwest.org.

2025 TWDC Board Candidate Questionnaire Responses

Editor's note: The Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC) Board of Directors questionnaire and candidate answers are published below without editing by The Tremonster and as submitted to us by TWDC for neighborhood distribution.

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 to 10 hours per month on TWDC matters.

CANDIDATE FOR TWDC BOARD PRESIDENT



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 ('22-24) and running for my second term as Board President. We supported Julie's continued growth into the full time Executive Director position and communicated to produce our strategic plan. We've also begun making headway on Near West Land Trust to preserve affordable housing in Tremont. As VP, I chaired the Governance Committee and 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 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 describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation: Arts/Crafts/Trades; Construction; Finance; Fundraising; Legal; Mechanical; Sales/Marketing; Writing/Documentation.

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.

CANDIDATES TWDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Austin Love

Please describe your involvement with the Tremont West Development Corporation or other Tremont clubs and activities during the last 5 years: I have been a proud Tremont resident since moving to the neighborhood in March 2022. Over the past few years, I've engaged with the Tremont community in multiple capacities, beginning with my former role as a television reporter and host at WKYC. During that time, I produced numerous stories and segments that highlighted the vibrant culture and businesses of Tremont, including features on local staples like Hi and Dry, STEAK, Dany's on Professor, Riff's, and the Taste of Tremont festival.

These stories were not only shared on air but also widely promoted through digital and social media platforms, helping raise visibility and appreciation for the neighborhood. Since transitioning into commercial real estate, I've remained actively involved in supporting Tremont's growth and sustainability. I currently represent local properties and businesses through listing, leasing, and sales efforts that align with the character and long-term vision of the community. I consider myself an advocate and steward of Tremont's best interests—particularly when it comes to the types of businesses that invest here—and I am committed to ensuring that development enhances, rather than detracts from, the unique fabric of the neighborhood. Serving on the Tremont West board would allow me to take this commitment even further by working collaboratively with other community leaders to protect and elevate Tremont's future.

Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years: Giving back has always been a core part of who I am, and over the past five years, I've been proud to support several charitable organizations—particularly those that align with causes close to my heart. Locally, I've actively supported the American Heart Association, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and the American Cancer Society. One of my most personal contributions has been launching my own fundraiser, Crush 'Em for Cancer, which has raised nearly \$40,000 for cancer research over the past two years. The event has drawn strong community support and participation from local celebrities, including Bernie Kosar and Tim Misny. My involvement with the American Cancer Society has been especially meaningful. I've served as a campaign member for Real Men Wear Pink for four consecutive years and have had the honor of emceeding the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk for the past four years. Additionally, I've served as the emcee for the American Cancer Society Greater Cleveland Golf Classic for the last six years. This year, I've taken on a larger leadership role by joining the event committee, helping to organize the event, engage sponsors, and contribute to fundraising efforts. Last year alone, this event raised over \$550,000 for cancer research and patient support programs. These experiences have allowed me to connect deeply with the community, amplify important causes, and contribute to impactful fundraising efforts—something I hope to continue doing in greater capacity as a board member of 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 city or county government): This year, I've had the privilege of serving on the committee for the *American Cancer Society Greater Cleveland Golf Classic*, where I've contributed to planning, fundraising, donor outreach, and event execution. This role has given me valuable experience in working collaboratively with a team to support a large-scale charitable event that raised over \$550,000 last year. In addition to this, I've taken the initiative in launching and organizing my own charitable fundraiser, *Crush 'Em for Cancer*. As the founder, I've led all aspects of the event—from securing sponsors and promoting the event to coordinating logistics and engaging the community. These efforts have raised nearly \$40,000 over the past two years and reflect my commitment to being an active and engaged member of the Cleveland community.

[Continued on page 7]

Tremont West Annual Meeting and Board Elections at 6pm on 5/15

[...Continued from page 6]

Please describe the skills and areas of expertise that you would bring to the Board of Directors of the Tremont West Development Corporation: I bring a unique blend of communication, community engagement, and commercial real estate expertise that I believe would be a strong asset to the Tremont West Development Corporation Board. With a background in media and storytelling, I've developed strong skills in public communication, branding, and outreach both in-person and online. My years as a television journalist with WKYC helped me build trusted relationships across the city, along with an understanding of how to elevate neighborhoods and local businesses through strategic promotion and media exposure. I have brought that experience and understanding to my current career in commercial real estate, where I specialize in identifying development opportunities, attracting the right tenants and businesses to strengthen local economies, and negotiating deals that align with community values. In addition, I bring a strong network of local influencers, entrepreneurs, politicians and media contacts that can be leveraged to support Tremont West's initiatives. As someone who lives and works in Tremont, I bring both a personal and professional commitment to seeing the neighborhood thrive. I'm passionate about preserving what makes Tremont special, while also helping guide smart and intentional growth.

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

Tremont has truly home to my wife and me. It's where I've built relationships, grown professionally, and got married. That personal connection is a big part of why I'm passionate about preserving and strengthening what makes Tremont so special. I'm interested in serving on the Tremont West Development Corporation Board because I want to play an active role in shaping the future of a place that has given so much to me. I believe in the mission of Tremont West and the importance of balancing thoughtful development with maintaining the neighborhood's unique character, culture, and sense of community. With my background in media, commercial real estate, and community engagement, I know I can bring value to the board in new and meaningful ways. Whether it's helping attract responsible development, enhancing communication strategies, working with small businesses in the incubator program or contributing to events and initiatives that bring neighbors together. I want to make sure Tremont remains a vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming neighborhood.

75 Word Statement: As a Tremont resident with a deep love for the neighborhood, I bring a unique background as both a former media personality and current commercial real estate professional. I'm a connector of people, with a strong understanding of who and what can influence positive change. I know how to create and promote ideas, build relationships, and help move initiatives forward. I want to be an active advocate for the best interests of the neighborhood, its residents, and business owners. Thank you for the opportunity!!



Deb Smith

Please describe your involvement with the Tremont West Development Corporation or other Tremont clubs and activities during the last 5 years: I have been a Director on the TWDC Board since 2022. During that time, I have been a member of the Economic Development Committee, the Governance Committee, and recently, the Fundraising Committee, where I am working with Barb Andelman on our Tremont Cookbook, which we hope to have available by Taste of Tremont. I have been a South of Jefferson Block Club member since 2015, and co-chaired the block club from 2016-2021. I spearhead maintenance and beautification of Lucky Park, working with my fellow SOJBC members to keep the park looking great. I have helped secure grants for replacement of the lighting and for plant material. I worked with the TWDC Executive Director Cory Riordan and Councilman McCormack to "save" Lucky Park in 2022 when half of it was going to be purchased by a private investor. I have continued to work with Councilman McCormack and TWDC Executive Director Julie Dahlhausen to purchase the remaining half of the park so we can preserve the greenspace at Professor and Starkweather. Expect great things at Lucky Park soon!

Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years: I worked as a volunteer driving people to the polls during the 2020 elections. In response to the City of Cleveland's stopping collection of recyclables, I created Clean Garbage Recycling. From July 2020 – December 2023, I collected and recycled aluminum, steel, and scrap from residents of Tremont and Ohio City. During the recycling hiatus, CGR also had paper retrievers placed in Tremont so residents had a place to recycle their paper and cardboard. I coordinated 2 Computer Round-Ups with RET3 for Tremont in 2022 and 2023.

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 city or county government): I was selected as one of 9 Circular Cleveland Ambassadors, working on a 30 month initiative with the Ella MacArthur Foundation, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, and Neighborhood Connections made possible by a grant from the Robert Woods Jones Foundation. Our focus was strengthening the circular economy in Cleveland.

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 dedicated to Tremont, a hard worker, and an optimist. My background is in healthcare - I am a retired RN. My career spans from the bedside, to inpatient and outpatient Nursing Management, to HIV/AIDS Coordinator to, most recently, Cancer Clinical Trials. I have spent my career helping people, working in groups, problem solving complex issues, and adjusting policies and procedures in reaction to changing times.

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

Corporation: I am passionate about Tremont. I think I have brought energy, optimism and a mature resident's perspective to the Board. I ask for your vote to allow me to continue working for our beloved Tremont neighborhood.

75 Word Statement: I've been a Tremont resident since 2015 and am a member and former co-chair of the SOJBC. My company, Clean Garbage Recycling, collects aluminum/steel/scrap and manages the paper retrievers in Tremont, providing a recycling option during the City's hiatus. Last Spring I spearheaded the effort to "Save Lucky Park"- it worked! I am a retired nurse committed to our fabulous neighborhood. I want to continue to serve in a positive way as a TWDC Board member.



Jonathan Greever

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

I have served on the TWDC Board of Directors for the past 3 years. I have served as the co-chair of the Governance Committee during that time. We have been able to overhaul the policies and procedures that guide our committee and board work during this past term. I am grateful for the leadership that my fellow board members provide to the community. **Please describe any involvement that you have had with charitable organizations during the last 5 years:** I have actively worked with Velosano's Race for the Cure with the Cleveland Clinic for Years.

I am actively involved with my church in Cleveland (Parkside Church) as well as my home church of many years in St. Louis where I served as deacon before I moved to Cleveland (First Baptist Church Fenton).

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 city or county government): I serve on the American Municipal Power Board of Trustees. I serve as the Chair for the Risk Committee, the IT Committee and co-chair for Prairie State Energy Campus Committee, and as the Chair of the Supply Chain Task Force. I am an International City Management Association certified Credentialed Manager (ICMA-CM) and am a member of the Ohio City Managers Association. I also serve on the Ohio Municipal Electric Association as a voting delegate for Ohio electric distribution providers. I served as a deacon in my church in St. Louis before I moved to Cleveland in the winter of 2021-2022 to get married and start a job in Wellington, Ohio.

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 local government administrator that specializes in organizational development, procedure creation and refinement, public policy and analysis, writing law and administering parliamentary procedure. Hopefully I can provide useful assistance to our Board in these areas.

Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation: I believe that we have been successful over the past 3 years in re-creating the manual that guides our Board member's behavior, defines their roles, sets expectations, and creates a platform for effective and fair governance for Tremont's benefit. Although we accomplished much, I strongly believe that there are further steps that we need to take to accomplish these goals. We have laid the groundwork, but now we need to effectively implement them. I hope that if I am re-elected, we will make meaningful progress on these fronts.

75 Word Statement: 3 years ago, after 7 years of a long-distance relationship (flying to Tremont monthly to see Jen

[Continued on page 8]



Jaime Declet

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

Block Clubs:

- Metro North Block Club: Spring 2013
- Scranton & Clark Block Club: Fall 2008
- TWCD voted in by Board 2022
- TWCD Economic Development Chair

Community Activities:

- Cleveland Clinic Heathy Community Initiative
- Esperanza Back to School Event 2012 – Present
- Night Out Against Crime 2008 - Present
- TWCD Healthy Community Initiative

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

- Fundraising and program planning for Saint Mary's Catholic Church
- Fundraising and program planning for Blue Star Mother's Lorain County
- Celebrate Tremont

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 city or county government):

- Board Member: The Virginia Hamilton Conference Advisory Board
- Board Member: Cleveland Housing Network
- Chair: Economic Development
- Chair: Cleveland Public Library's Latinos Juntos Employee Resource Group

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

- Community Outreach
- Leadership
- Management

Please state why you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Tremont West Development Corporation: I have always believed in getting involved in the communities where I work. I believe my management skills and strong public service commitment make me an excellent candidate for this position.

Tremont West Annual Meeting and Board Elections at 6pm on 5/15

[...Continued from page 7]

during that time) I moved to Cleveland to get married. Since then my wife, Jen, and I have been blessed by the birth of our little boy, Benji. At 20 months old, he keeps us busy. I am also the Village Manager of Wellington and Jen is a doctor at the Cleveland Clinic. We have made Tremont our home. As soon as I moved here, I was encouraged to run for the TWDC board. I was fortunate enough to be elected, and over the past 3 years, it has been my distinct honor to serve our great community as the vice-chair of the governance committee. We have accomplished much during this term, overhauling our guiding documents, policies and procedures, as well as re-creating our codes of conduct and responsibilities for board members. We have made tremendous strides in professionalizing the organization. We now need to turn this strong foundation into tangible implementation in our community by revamping our programs. If elected, I would enjoy further serving Tremont in this regard.



Lauren Lampley

Please describe your involvement with the Tremont West Development Corporation or other Tremont clubs and activities during the last 5 years: I am an active member of the South of Jefferson Block Club including being the food drive coordinator for the past two years. I'm also involved in the maintenance of Lucky Park. My husband and I love to frequent events and activities in the neighborhood. Some of our favorites include the Taste of Tremont, the Food Truck Festival, and Walkabout.

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

I volunteered as a dog walker for City Dogs and still support them in my annual charitable gifts. My husband and I adopted one of the City Dogs (Bodhi) and can often be spotted walking with him around the neighborhood.

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 city or county government):

I am a member of the event planning committee of the local Cleveland NABA (National Association of Black Accountants) Chapter. I am also a member of the AICPA (American Institute of CPAs). For the past three years, I have served as the Deloitte Representative on the Engage! Cleveland Leadership Council.

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 Certified Public Accountant with almost 15 years of experience in public accounting. I'm very detail oriented and organized and I believe my professional skills and experience in accounting and business in addition to my passion for this neighborhood will be beneficial to a role on the board.

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

I have been a member of the block club since my husband and I became homeowners in the neighborhood. Through the block club, we've made some great friends and really enjoyed building stronger ties to the community. I would love the opportunity to continue to contribute to the neighborhood and my neighbors in this role.

75 Word Statement: Friends & Neighbors, I would truly appreciate your consideration and vote for the TWDC Board of Directors. I currently serve as the food drive coordinator for the South of Jefferson Block Club and the committee to maintain and improve Lucky Park. I love this neighborhood deeply, and I believe my passion, experience, and drive can support TWDC's board and staff in helping our community grow stronger, together. Thank you for your support!



Stephen Wojtla

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

I have been a proud resident of Tremont for the past 8.5 years. Over the past three years, I have been an active member of the Auburn-Lincoln Park block club. As of January 2025, I have taken on the role of co-chair in the ALP block club with Jonathan Patrea.

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

Over the past five years, I have actively contributed to several charitable organizations. As a core volunteer team member of the organization, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, I help build and deliver beds to children in need in the western Cuyahoga County suburbs. Additionally, I led a fundraiser for the Cleveland APL in Tremont, raising over \$100,000 for the organization over the course of seven years. Lastly, I formerly volunteered with the US Committee of Refugees and Immigrants for about five years, working as a community mentor and tutor where I was involved in assisting US refugees in assimilating into American culture and supporting their journey towards citizenship.

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 city or county government):

I have not held any additional memberships on boards or committees during the last five years.

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

I bring over seven years of management experience and more than a decade of marketing expertise, having worked in advertising agencies and currently in the brand marketing department at Sherwin-Williams. I have a proactive, solutions-oriented approach to my work and consider myself a natural leader. As someone who is very involved in local charities and community groups (i.e., Run Clubs, Social groups, etc.), I have a good pulse on The Cleveland community and the needs of young, local residents.

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

As a resident of Tremont for the last 8.5 years, I am deeply passionate about this neighborhood. Since purchasing my home five years ago, I have been actively involved in the area and take pride in being part of this vibrant community that so many Clevelanders love. Serving on the Board of Directors would allow me to contribute to the ongoing development of Tremont, ensuring the best for Tremont's future.

75 Word Statement: As a dedicated resident of Tremont for over years, I am passionate about contributing to the community's growth. My involvement in local initiatives and charities, combined with my professional expertise in marketing, equips me to support Tremont's development. I am committed to enhancing business development and housing, ensuring Tremont remains a vibrant and thriving neighborhood. Serving on the Board of Directors would be an honor and a meaningful way to give back to the community.



**Join Us for The Tremonster Content MeetUps
Every Tuesday from 4:45 to 5:45 pm
at Jefferson Library (850 Jefferson Ave.)**

Caffo GATO
Cat Café
761 Starkweather Ave | (440) 941-5130

La Bodega
All that and a bag of chips
869 Jefferson Ave. | (216) 621-7075

Driftwood Open House and Design Contest



Photos by Rich Weiss

Driftwood Apartments held an open house in April that included a contest for best local designer of four AirBNB suites.

by The Tremonster

On the last day of April, Driftwood Apartments (1111 Fairfield Ave.) held an open house and *Designing Driftwood* competition. Attendees were treated to a buffet spread in a community gathering area and then invited on guided tours of the Driftwood community. The tours included four Airbnb boutique hotel suites—each uniquely brought to life by local Cleveland designers. These four suite designs are the focus of the ongoing *Designing Driftwood* competition: Driftwood open house visitors cast votes on their favorite locally designed Airbnb suite and were entered to win a free stay in the very suite that won their vote (see ongoing voting opportunities for Tremonsters below). Driftwood boasts 102 luxury lofts, each space designed as an “homage to the experience of vacation and the great boutique hotels.”

Upon entry, the foyer, entrance ways, and lobby of Driftwood are modern and engaging. Expansive picture windows feature interesting peeks at our surrounding Tremont neighborhood. Driftwood staff describe their location in the community enthusiastically, pointing to the walkable and active arts scene and Driftwood’s own role, filling an empty corner of an intersection of highly respected Tremont bars and restaurants. Driftwood offers Tremont a range of living floorplans from studios, one-bedroom suites, two-bedroom suites, and Penthouses mixed with amenities including high-end fitness, a planned high-end restaurant with rooftop bar, an outdoor “Zen deck,” an indoor solarium, a swimming pool, a rooftop deck with a view of the Cleveland Skyline, along with immediate access to the best of our city. Driftwood is extending an invitation to

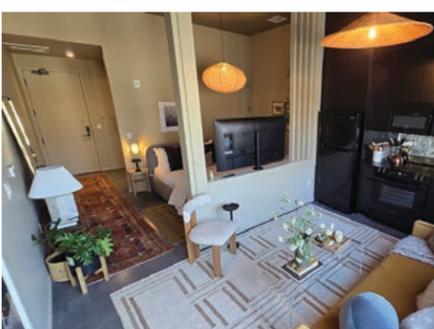
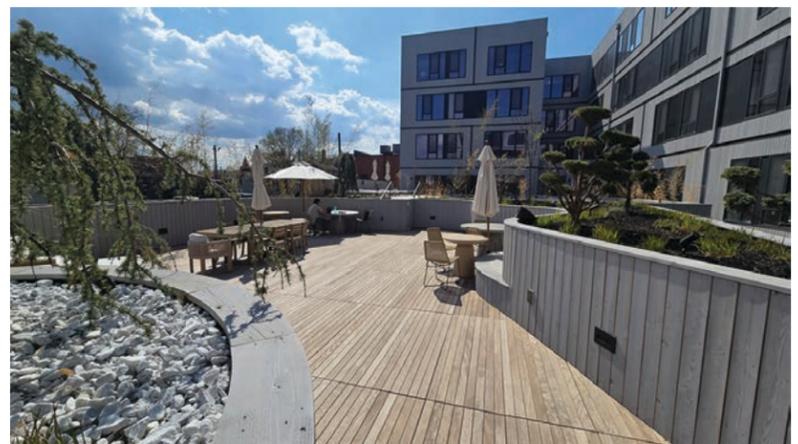
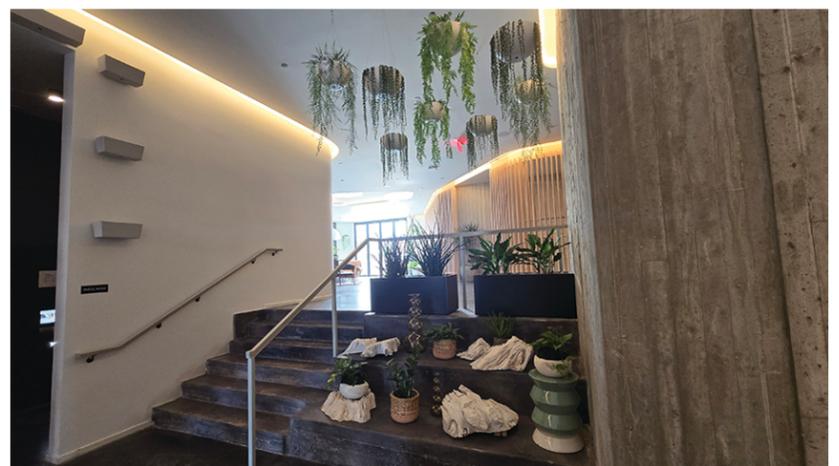
Tremont community members through the end of May to:

1. visit Driftwood,
2. tour the designs, and
3. cast their votes on best design
4. enter to win a stay in their favorite Driftwood Airbnb

Leasing Specialists are available through the end of May to set dates by email or phone, meet on-site for tours, and offer details about available leasing options, floor plans, move-in specials, and accept your vote and contest entry. Please email jessica@jrocdevelopment.com or scan this code:



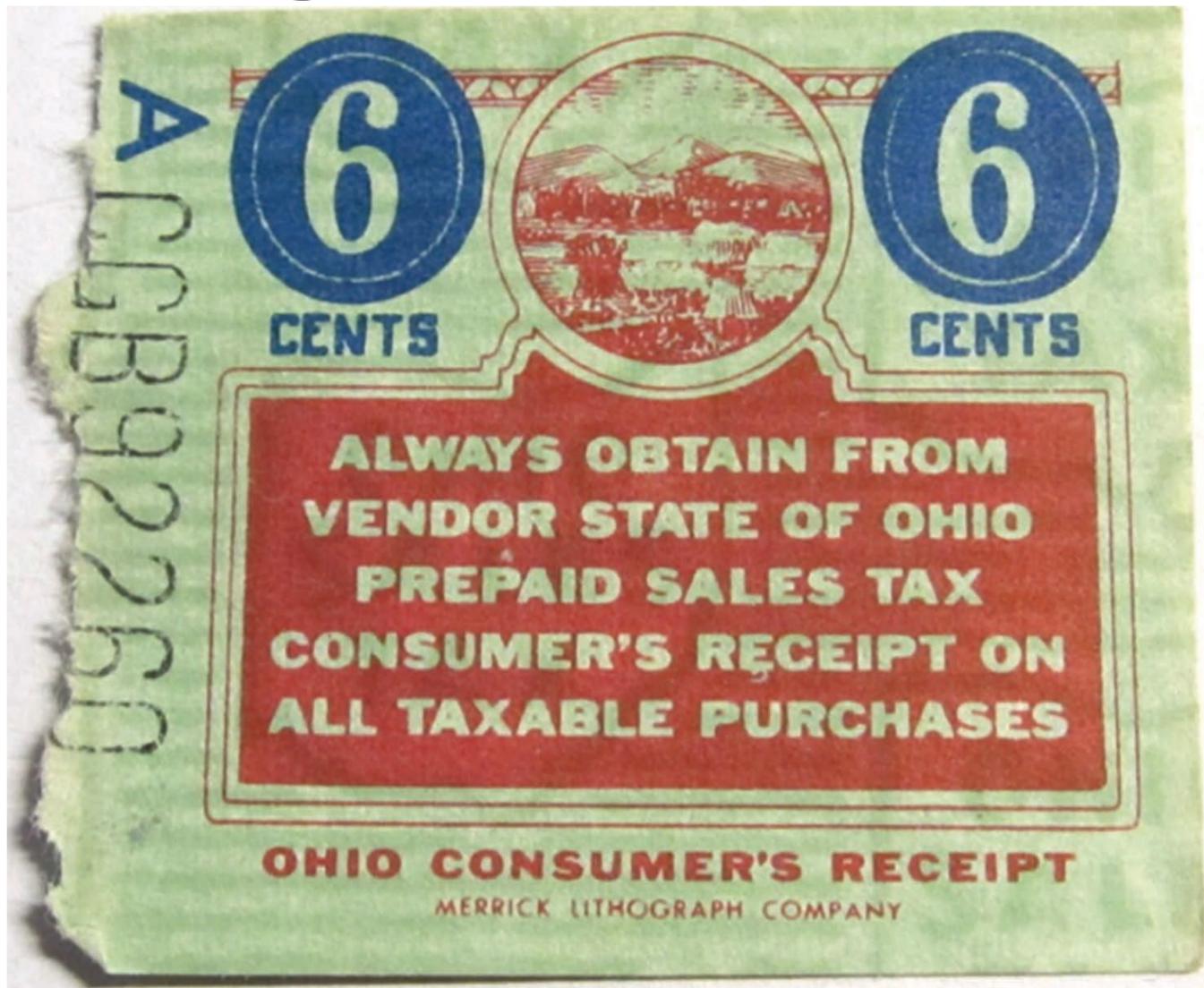
Driftwood Open House guests were treated to a fruit and vegetable buffet spread in a community gathering area and then invited on guided tours of the Driftwood community.



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

Ken Scigulinsky's Memories Of Tremont Avenue

Changes I see



Ohio State sales tax stamp

Photo courtesy of Ken Scigulinsky

by Ken Scigulinsky

I recently received an unexpected book in the mail from a friend. Called *Lost Cleveland*, it has over one hundred pages of text and captivating photos profiling Cleveland buildings and institutions that are no longer in existence or which have been totally abandoned. (I later learned that a launching party for the book was held at Prosperity Social Club on Starkweather Ave.). As I read through the book, I thought of things from my childhood that the current generation of Southside kids will not experience as part of their history. The local movie theatres are gone, and although some of the business sites that I remember are still in existence, the original businesses themselves have changed. The iconic sites from the 1940s still performing their original functions are the Jefferson Library, Hotz Café, Merrick House, St. Theodosius Cathedral, and Tremont School (although it is now a Montessori school).

Here are some random memories from the 1940s:

CIRCUS. Cleveland's Public Auditorium (Public Hall) is used for many purposes including concerts, lectures, and shows, but in the '40s it was also a site for three-ring circuses. Circuses were a common form of entertainment during that time period, and many cities across the United States hosted traveling circuses in venues like Public Auditorium. I understand it last hosted a circus in 1968. My mother took me a few times to see a three-ring circus, always seated quite high in the stands because those were the cheap seats. Walking around the entryways, there were many kinds of circus souvenirs for sale that were never bought for me. I guess the cost of the circus was enough of a financial challenge for my mom. I always wanted to have one of those pennies that are pressed into a souvenir medal with a circus elephant or some other image on it, but my mother wouldn't allow it.

I thought it only cost the penny that you inserted into the Penny Press Machine, but my mother explained that she would have to put some money into the machine plus my penny. Pressed pennies are still collectible, and some can be bought online for hundreds, even thousands, of dollars. My mom did, however, buy me some Mexican Jumping Beans and at home I watched them move around in my hand, eventually putting them in my mouth, as kids are prone to do with many playthings. When my mom discovered my amusement, she alarmingly informed me that the beans moved around because there were worms inside so I quickly spit them out.

MAIL. We had a mailbox next to the door of our residence, and mail was delivered twice a day. Mail was commonplace since neither we, nor any of our relatives, had a telephone. If you needed a doctor to make a house call, which was the usual practice, you had to go to the drugstore for a payphone. To mail a letter cost \$.03 and a post card required a \$.01 stamp, so that's how we kept in touch with relatives. After WWII, we got a letter from my dad's relatives in Czechoslovakia, so I cut the stamp off of the letter, thinking it had to be very valuable. Remembering there was a stamp collector's store in the downtown Cleveland arcade, I got on the bus with my precious stamp. I envisioned the stamp dealer would be eager to buy my stamp, thinking I might even get a dollar for it. I proudly showed him the stamp, never asking if he wanted to buy it. He quickly looked at it, told me it was nice for a collection then went about his business. I was too embarrassed to ask him if he wanted to buy it.

NEWSPAPERS. In the '40s we had a choice of three newspapers: *The Cleveland News*, *The Cleveland Press*, and *The Plain Dealer*. Papers were available at the drug store on Professor Ave. or for home delivery. We never subscribed to any paper but would

occasionally buy a copy at the drugstore for \$.04, especially on the weekend to scan *The Cleveland Press* for my potential moviegoing. The sad history of Cleveland's newspapers mirrors that of print newspapers throughout the country that have been supplanted by TV news and online news sources. These are the tombstones in the Cleveland newspaper cemetery:

The Cleveland News: 1905-1960

(absorbed by *The Cleveland Press*)

The Cleveland Press: 1878-1982

Still alive, but with altered circulation:

The Plain Dealer: 1842 weekly until 1845 then evening daily until about 2020. Now four days/week.

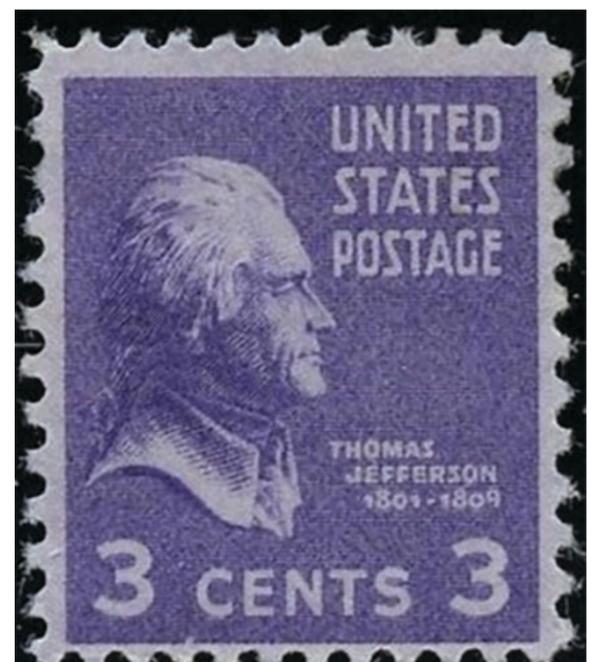
An older friend had a paper route delivering *The Cleveland Press* in the Tremont area, and I would occasionally walk the route with him. Once he asked if I could deliver his papers for one day because he had to do something. The pay was only a few cents for the one-day task. I was reluctant to do it because I knew of

one house on St. Tikhon Avenue that usually had a large, mean dog inside the fenced yard and I was afraid of dogs. When I expressed my fear, my friend's dad said he would accompany me to the feared house. He did so, but there was no dog outside that day. Later I wondered why the dad couldn't have done the route himself since he walked almost the full route with me.

TAX STAMPS. Ohio implemented a sales tax in 1935 to create revenue. Ohio's unique concept required merchants to buy tax stamps of various denominations and issue the stamps according to

the amount of tax on the consumer's purchased product. The small pieces of paper were about an inch and a half square and really were not stamps, since they had no adhesive on the back. Most people discarded them after returning home and that was great for kids as we collected the stamps and used them as play money. The stamps I remember were green, but there were other colors as well. Customers were encouraged to demand the stamps to assure merchants were honestly issuing the stamps and buying replacements. As an incentive, a program was created that allowed consumers to collect the stamps for donation to schools or charities. After being sorted, bundled, and sent to the state, the tax receipts would provide three percent of the face value to the submitting organization. Apparently, customers could additionally receive a tax credit for the amount of state taxes paid. I say that because my parents had their taxes done by a guy who told them he could provide, if necessary, tax stamps that could be used to confirm their tax deduction, even though my parents didn't save the tax stamps from their purchases. Although the taxes continued, Ohio discontinued the tax stamp program in 1962.

STATE LIQUOR STORES. Until 1997, the sale of liquor in Ohio was limited to state run stores in various areas. The change allowed private retailers to sell liquor as long as they possessed the appropriate license. I am intimately familiar with the old concept as I was the enabler for my father who could not read or write, so I accompanied him to the state store on Lorain Ave. just up the street from the West Side Market. My dad would tell me what he wanted, and I would locate the liquor name on the board behind the counter of request pads; then, I would write the name and number on the requisition pad, and he would sign it and take it to the check-out window. Many years of life evoke many memories, and my Southside ones are the best. 🍷

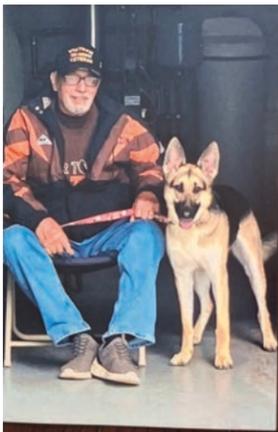


First class postage stamp 1940s

Post 58 \$10,000 Donation Helps Make Veteran Canine Connection

by Post 58 Commander Terry Zacharyj

Below are pictures of Veterans with their comfort dog. Last year, Post 58 donated \$10,000 to the Veteran Canine Connection organization in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. This organization trains dogs for Veterans in need of a 4-legged friend. Post 58 members are happy to help. Enjoy the pictures.



Older, Wiser, Livelier, Seniors (OWLS) Cleveland Luncheon Meeting Recap



At the April OWLS Cleveland meeting, Ananth Sastry, MD, spoke about age-related macular degeneration

Photos by Bev Wurm

by Bev Wurm

April Spring Fling with the Cleveland OWLS featured speaker Ananth Sastry, MD, who spoke about age-related macular degeneration. Everyone also enjoyed working on art projects of picture frames, easter eggs, or assorted shape decorations under the instruction of local artist Angelica Pozo. A raffle basket, door prizes, and a 50/50 raffle were included. Lunch consisted of sandwiches of turkey, roast beef, corned beef, tuna, and

cheese, a vegetable tray, large fruit tray, cookies, coffee, water, and iced tea. Our May 14th meeting will be held at Tremont UCC Zion Church (2700 W. 14th St.), and we will hear from speaker Bob Buckle on gardening. Contact 216-310-6810 to RSVP for lunch. Cleveland OWLS was made possible through a Neighbor Up Grant from Neighborhood Connections and Tremont West Development Corporation.

A Post 58 Monument at Ohio Western Reserve Veterans Cemetery

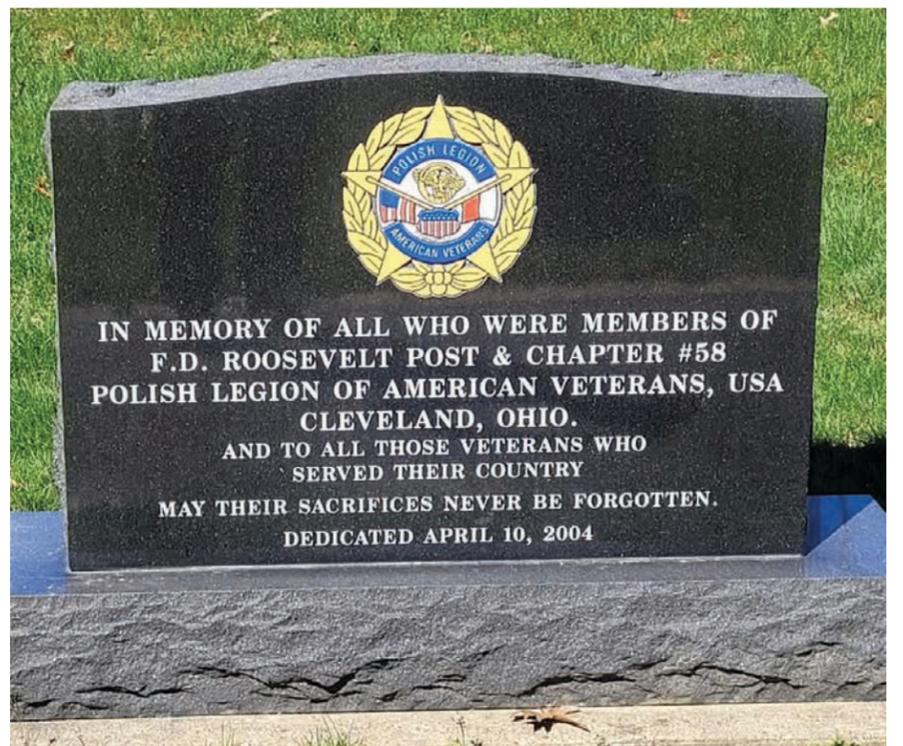


Photo courtesy of Post 58

The Post 58 Monument at Ohio Western Reserve Veterans Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio, was dedicated in 2004.

by Post 58 Commander Terry Zacharyj

In 2004, Post 58 dedicated a monument at Ohio Western Reserve Veterans Cemetery in Rittman, OH. We had nearly 100 members present. Consider taking a trip out to this beautiful and emotional cemetery. Veterans and their spouses can make this their final resting place either in ground or the cremation wall at no cost.

We have many of our 58ers already resting there. It's definitely worth the hour drive to see this. Also, mark your calendars for our next Post 58 Veterans meeting: On Saturday, June 21st at 1:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post 627 in Newburgh Hts. Open bar. Brett Holycross of Sirna's Cafe will be catering lunch after the meeting.

Death Cruise 2020 Opens June 6th at Convergence-Continuum



convergence-continuum

The Liminis Theater, 2438 Scranton Rd., Cleveland, OH 44113
216-687-0074

Convergence-continuum continues its 2025 season with the world premiere of *Death Cruise 2020* by Christopher Johnston. Passengers aboard the cruise ship Halcyon Daze find themselves trapped at sea when the “unknown pneumonia” infecting the public is discovered to be a new virus called COVID-19. As it rapidly spreads, survivors find themselves either quarantined in their cabins, or free to roam the ship—at their own risk. Tickets are \$23 general admission, \$18 for seniors and \$18 for students. Tickets and information are available at www.convergence-continuum.org and 216-687-0074.

Tremont Farmers Market Restarts 5/20



Tremont Farmers Market

Every Tuesday from May until October, get fresh produce, fresh baked goods, honey, jams, hand-crafted foods and art from local farmers, producers and artists. The Tremont Farmers Market provides fresh food and produce from local farmers and merchants. The Farmers Market is also a neighborhood gathering place often featuring live entertainment. Join us in growing our community and help our local farmers flourish!

2025 Tremont Farmers Market

Dates:
May 20, 27
June 3, 10, 17, 24
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
August 5, 12, 19, 26
September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
October 7, 14

Tremont’s Lincoln Park – Rain or Shine
30 plus vendors including farm fresh produce, baked goods, fresh coffee, lemonade and ice cream, local crafts, non profit organizations, food trucks and live music!
Vulnerable population can shop early from 3:30 – 4 p.m. Produce Perks are available with up to a \$25 match and EBT accepted.
Follow us @TremontFarmersMarket to stay up to date each week.



Girls Night Out the Show



The Elliot
Girls Night Out the Show
Tuesday, June 10, 2025
The Rosehip Room
8-10:30 PM; Doors at 7 PM

Welcome to Girls Night Out the Show® the premier destination for a thrilling and unforgettable night out! But GNO is more than just a show - it’s an experience. Whether you’re celebrating a special occasion or just looking for a fun night out with friends, our show is the perfect way to let loose and have fun! Handsome men, high-energy music, and interactive elements that get YOU, the audience, involved - you’ll feel like you’re part of the action.



Order Your Own Tremont Flag!
Artwork by Tremont Flag Design Contest Winner:
Natalie West



*Pole not included
*Please allow 2 to 3 weeks for delivery

Order your Tremont flag today by visiting *The Tremonster* web page thetremonger.org/tremont-neighborhood-flag

or by scanning this QR code:

