

FREE!

The West Park Times

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New Site for Puritas Elementary



Photo by Jerry Masek

Assistant Principal Debbie Piazza (left) and Principal Meg Colwell are ready for a new school year at a new site -- the former St. Patrick School. About 380 students began classes Sept. 4 at the Puritas Elementary and Middle School, part of the Constellation school system.

By Jerry Masek

A new owner is breathing new life into an historic school building in the heart of West Park. Constellation Schools bought the building at 17720 Puritas Ave. About 380 students in grades K-8 started class there Sept. 4. The building, built in 1930, was formerly known as St. Patrick's School. Later, as West Park Catholic Academy (WPCA), it was a joint effort of several local parishes. Because of declining enrollment, WPCA closed in June 2014. The building has been vacant since then. It now houses the Puritas Community Elementary and Middle School. The school formerly used a commercial building at 15204 Puritas Ave., near Marc's Plaza, and moved items over the summer.

The school is also leasing part of an adjacent building on the St. Patrick's campus that contains a gymnasium, cafeteria and more classrooms. "We are just thrilled," said Principal Meg Colwell. "We now have the ability to work in a more traditional educational setting, with access to a cafeteria, gymnasium and comfortable classroom and support staff space. This will help us to optimally meet the educational needs of our students." The school is accepting students through Sept. 30 for the current academic year. Officials will begin accepting enrollment for the following school year in December. For information, call 216-688-0680, or visit www.constellationschools.com. Constellation Schools LLC, formed in 2000, now operates 15 schools with 5,000 students in Northeastern Ohio.



KAMM'S CORNER CLOCK FIXED

If you are driving or walking through the intersection of Lorain Avenue and Rocky River Drive, you may notice that the clock at Kamm's Corners is now fixed! According to local officials, the repair was spearheaded by Kamm's Corners Development Corporation (KCDC) Board of Trustees President Todd Sheppard. According to KCDC Executive Director Steve Lorenz, Sheppard purchased the battery. There was also additional work which needed to be completed on the clock, which included rusty contacts and some mechanical work performed by Suburban Clock & Repair in Berea. "We had to get all the different faces synchronized," says Lorenz. "The faces were four different times. The hands can only move so fast. To get them synched up at the same time, took quite a while. So, we looked at the one that was the farthest ahead and caught the other three up to it, then hit the master switch to make them all work in unison from there on out."



CMSD report card: increased test scores, closing achievement gaps, another record grad rate



CMSD NEWS BUREAU

CMSD's latest state report card is out, and it shows continued improvement in a number of key areas. Among several highlights, this year's report card shows the District's graduation rate reached 74.6 percent -- yet

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Fun with Learning at West Park Academy



Photo by Jessie Schoonover

(ABOVE) Rachel Elam performs at 5 Points Coffee & Tea for Open Mic Night, which was held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sept. 6, and may continue indoors for the upcoming winter months. (RIGHT)



West Park Animal Hospital expands beside Cone Zone.

Read more page 4...

(SEE PAGE 4)



Photo by the West Park Times

This photo is a picture of West Park Academy's Kindergarten class playing a letters and sounds game with teacher Maureen Leigh.

West Park Academy is seeing success in multiple areas across the board. These areas include academic achievement, the introduction of innovative and interactive programs, as well as an overall focus on character development. According to West Park Academy Principal Michael Jaissle, he is impressed beyond belief by the overall growth of his students and staff. "I have a pretty big vision for this school," he says. "And that's

not just to be a school, but a family center, as well. We hope to offer things like programs for people on weekends and evenings. We would like to be a place where people can go to get help to get back on their feet." According to Jaissle, the school is also a local voting location, and it will be open for the November election polls. Jaissle says that the school strives to be convenient for both parents and students, as well as encouraging.

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Fun with Learning at West Park Academy

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"I say to the students a lot: try to be 1-percent better than you were yesterday."

Those are words which aptly frame the school's core values, which are, Community. Integrity. Resilience. Excellence. These values, along with proactive teaching and instructional efforts, have turned this once failing school into one that currently carries an impressive B rating for 'overall value added' and a 'progress component grade,' as determined by the Ohio Department of Education.

"We took a one-on-one approach," Jaissle says. "All of our learners deserve full attention."

Jaissle also says that staff at West Park Academy receive coaching and educational tools once per-week to ensure students are getting a quality education from well-informed teachers. Staff at West Park Academy are also of the belief that, if one student does not respond well to one way of teaching, it is important to try new ways of teaching in order to combat this issue and see progress.

"We take this approach to make sure that every student is getting what they need in order to learn," says Jaissle.

Jaissle also included that with all the learning going on at West Park Academy, they also like to set aside an ample amount of time to celebrate. The school will be holding several events throughout the year. For more information about the school or upcoming events, visit: <https://acawestpark.com/>.

BEER BABBLE: "Septemberfest"

By Jenn Wirtz, Der Braumeister Restaurant owner & beer drinker

I have been asked many times the same question: Why is Oktoberfest celebrated in September? The answer is easy enough and anticlimactic. Because the prince wanted it that way. Oktoberfest was originally a week long celebration in 1810 in honor of Prince Ludwig's marriage to the princess. Several years later, after continuing the ritual, the festivities moved to September because of weather. Bavarians could enjoy drinking, dancing, horse races, and walks through the meadows.

Now that we have that out of the way, let's talk beer. As you would expect, Munich has rules as to which beers can be served within the wall of the Oktoberfest party. The tents pitched and beers delivered are Augustinerbräu, Hacker-Pschorr, Hofbräu, Löwenbräu, Paulaner, and Spaten-Franziskaner-Bräu. The type of beer served since its start has actually changed, but the beers now synonymous with Oktoberfest are fest and marzen.

Märzens are typically amber, full bodied, carry a moderate IBU (International Bittering Units) and now brewed year round. My favorite marzen is none other than Hacker-Pschorr Märzen Oktoberfest. Once only brewed in March, never in the summer, and served at the festivities. With a low carbonation, this is a smooth beer with a sweet and nutty taste. Another Märzen is the coveted Löwenbräu, considered to be the first official Oktoberfest beer. Sadly, it is no longer available here in Cleveland, but I still consider it one of the best. Some are turned off by the candied malt taste, but it is an acquired taste and is a brewery I never skip when in Munich.

The other main type is festbier, which is malty, sweet, and pale in color. My favorite, and it could be because of my quick weekend partying as a VIP in their Munich tent, is Hofbräu Oktoberfest (Clevelanders, be weary of beer with the same name, but not brewed in Germany). The only real way to drink this beer is in a Masskrug, a giant liter glass. What better way to enjoy beer than by strengthening your biceps with each sip? This Oktoberfestbier has a slightly higher ABV, at 6.3%, more than an ordinary lager, but low enough to keep drinking them at a pace that doesn't allow that last sip to get warm.

Lastly, the craft takes on Oktoberfest are endless here in America and bring a welcomed new spin on the Munich rules and regulations. Most are hoppy or higher in IBU. Oktoberfest traditionally brings beer and people together to celebrate. One thing that struck me in Germany, and within each tent, were the massive crowds of people from all over the world getting along. Singing and dancing to Neil Diamond (yes, the Germans LOVE Neil), clinking liter beers, and cheeks cherry with slight intoxication were present as every race and gender were packed tightly into tents and getting along. So...prost and a second one to Oktoberfest for bringing people, partying, beer traditions, and brewing experimentation together!

For more information, visit: <http://derbrau.com/>

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