

Hilltop Matters – Back Page

Ricksecker: Westgate can fuel Hilltop growth

(continued) The Hilltop will redevelop faster than Victorian Village and the Short North, says Ricksecker, who led the Short North Business Association for several years. “When the Short North was developing, people didn’t ‘get’ urban living,” he said. “Today, people understand urban living.”

Young adults are looking for a neighborhood, Ricksecker said. They don’t want to live in Powell and they can’t afford Victorian Village or Clintonville. That makes the Hilltop a strong market for first-time homebuyers.

“No one yet thinks of the Hilltop or Westgate as being at all hip, yet it’s the hottest neighborhood in

Columbus right now,” he said. “What happens in Westgate will spread and stimulate the neighborhoods east of Hague. Commuting patterns will help this process.”

Cleve’s advice to the Hilltop and Westgate: Use the Internet to signal a new image. Also, appeal to artists to create live-work space and entrepreneurs to create a coffee shop or “a good, funky gathering place.”

“Pay attention to your best demographic – young people in their 20s and 30s,” he said. “That will be your best source for revitalization. It’s inevitable that things will change for the better. What the Hilltop can do is speed up the process.”

The veggies are coming – but first the flowers

Starting Tuesday, May 5, the Highland West Merchants Association will present the Highland West Farmers Market at 2305 W. Broad St. at Wheatland Avenue. Each Tuesday, from 3 to 7 p.m., through most of October, Morrow County farmer Tony Parsons will sell produce grown mainly at his family farm. Initially, he’ll offer flowers, bedding plants and starter tomatoes. Expect to see fresh strawberries at the end of May. Parsons also will sell produce each Thursday, 3 to 7 p.m., starting May 7, at the Westside International Farmers Market, 3700 Sullivant Avenue, near last year’s inaugural market.

More Hilltop News

NCNW honors Dru Bagley for service



The Columbus Section of the National Council of Negro Women Inc. will honor Hilltop civic leader Dru Bagley for her community service and leadership at its 8th annual luncheon May 16 at Hilton Columbus/Easton.

The NCNW will present Bagley with its 2009 Outstanding Community Service Award. Also receiving the award is John Gregory, CEO of TEACH Enterprises.

Community Garden: A new community garden is forming on Highland Avenue. Info: Peggy Murphy, 614-260-5767.

Almost ready: The West Side Health Center will open late this summer after construction crews complete their work in June, says Ken Darling, chief operating officer for Columbus Neighborhood Health Center Inc., the nonprofit that operates the center.

The 35,000-square-foot center will triple the space of the current Hilltop Health Center on Sullivant Avenue and will allow providers to serve about 7,200 patients a year with more than 22,000 visits.

Block Watch Growth: The Highland West Merchants Block Watch is expanding. A new block watch is forming for residents in the neighborhoods north and south of West Broad Street, between Lechner and Hague avenues. Because of the large area, it’s likely several block watches will be formed. Contact: Geoff Phillips at 614-308-0803.

Have news? Contact Kathy Hoke, 614-276-5562 or kathyhoke@gmail.com
Business question? Contact Nancy Rhynard, 614-531-5665 or suttonnr@aol.com