

Hilltop Matters

Neighborhood and commercial news on West Broad Street and beyond

City grant helps W. Broad St. doctor solve water issues

Brick building at Hilltop Wellness & Chiropractic needed repairs

Soon after opening his chiropractic clinic on West Broad Street in 2007, Dr. Scott Gosselin noticed a big problem – every time it rained, water pooled in the basement, damaged the front porch and ruined his flower beds.

“The soffits and gutter boards were totally rotted,” Gosselin said. “We had to do something.”

Gosselin learned that Hilltop Wellness & Chiropractic, 2527 W. Broad St., could pursue business incentives through the Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization Program, a city of Columbus initiative.

The NCR program supports six business areas near downtown, including West Broad Street from Highland to Hague avenues. Business and property owners could qualify for technical assistance, loans and matching grants, capital improvements and planning services.

After conducting some research, Gosselin applied for matching funds in the NCR Storefront Renovation Grant Program to help repair his soffits and gutters. He received the maximum grant of \$3,000.



Dr. Scott Gosselin, D.C., worked with city officials to get matching funds to repair the front of his clinic on West Broad St. Now, when it rains, he can focus on patient care – instead of cleaning water from the basement.

>>>>>Over

Give crime and drugs a going-away party Aug. 4

It's time for National Night Out – “America's night out against crime.” One of the largest National Night Out events in the city is happening right here on the Hilltop on Aug. 4, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Hillcrest Baptist Church, 2480 W. Broad St. Among the special guests is NASCAR driver Eddie Vallette.

The Highland West Merchants and Residents Block Watch is presenting the event with support from the Columbus Division of Police, Target, the Hilltop Business Association, the Westside Community Health Advisory Committee and Hilltop Wellness & Chiropractic. The event is free and open to the public. Free food will be served. For more information, contact Nancy Rhynard, 614-531-5665.

More Hilltop Matters →→→→→→→→

Hilltop Matters – Back Page

West Broad St. doc saves money on clinic repairs with grant

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“It covered about 25 percent of the cost – that was a huge help,” said Gosselin, who lives with his wife Keren and two young children on the second story of the clinic. “It’s also a big time saver, because I don’t have to clean up after it rains.”

Now, he’s turning his attention to replacing a ramp in the parking lot.

Gosselin advises business owners to be proactive, persistent and patient when working with the city. “It could potentially have a big payoff. For me to get \$3,000 – it was a lot of work, but it wasn’t \$3,000 worth of work. It was definitely worth the effort.

“Everyone was incredibly easy to deal with. They’d always say, ‘Call us if you need anything.’ ”

Learn more about business incentives for West Broad Street

Have a business in the NCR district? Want to start a business along the strip? The city has several incentives for business and property owners in the West Broad Street commercial corridor, as well as other programs for businesses anywhere in the city. To get started, contact Betsy Meleski, coordinator of the NCR program, at 614-645-8644 or visit <http://columbus.gov>.

Summer patrol initiative paying off with reduced crime

Officers Linda Gibson and Ryan Sigman are helping the 19th Precinct stay ahead of some crime issues, especially prostitution and street drugs.

Instead of responding only to service calls, the two Columbus police officers are seen regularly on West Broad St. and other parts of the Hilltop.

They wait at corners, staring at the prostitutes and idle young men until they leave. They serve arrest warrants and work closely with parole authorities. They follow up on vicious dog complaints. And they’ve enlisted code enforcement on a property that harbored gang activity.

“This is the best summer in the eight years I’ve been on the Hilltop,” says Andy Carroll, owner of the Cycle Co., which sells motorcycles at 2360 W. Broad St. “I don’t see hookers or obvious drug deals very often anymore. It’s definitely getting better.”

Sgt. Joe Horton says he hopes the initiative improves quality of life for Hilltop residents and business owners.

“Nothing gives an area more of an image of disorder than people just hanging out,” Horton said.

“Our increased presence on Broad Street has forced the

prostitutes working the corners to move on. Once they get uncomfortable, they leave.”



Sgt. Joe Horton with Officers Ryan Sigman and Linda Gibson.

In other Hilltop matters...

Natural sunlight, adaptive reuse of the historic Engine House No. 17 and a bioswale to manage stormwater runoff are among the features of the new health center opening this fall at 2300 W. Broad St. The **Columbus West Family Health and Wellness Center** will triple the space of the current Hilltop Health Center on Sullivant Avenue, expanding services to about 7,200 patients a year.

In addition, the former firehouse includes a large community meeting space on the first floor, part of a plan for the building to serve as a visible civic gathering point and to help re-establish the prominence of West Broad Street. Accessibility, energy savings and connection with the neighborhood are key design features. “We tried to make the space as bright as we could with natural light,” said project manager Lorne Eisen of DesignGroup.

The **Hilltop Business Association** is seeking feedback for next year’s **Historic Hilltop Bean Dinner**. Take a survey at www.hilltopbusinessassociation.org – and see the HBA’s new website.

Questions about this newsletter? Contact Kathy Hoke, editor, 614-276-5562 or kathyhoke@gmail.com