



Call The Roll

An E-Publication of Columbus City Council

HUDSON and THOMAS LAUNCH SOUTH SIDE INITIATIVE_____



Mary Jo Hudson announces the South Side plan at Schreiner's Hardware on Parsons Avenue.

Recognizing the need for swift and strategic action to jump-start redevelopment in the city's South Side, Columbus City Council members [Mary Jo Hudson](#) and [Patsy Thomas](#) joined the City's Development Director Mark Barbash recently to launch a **South Side Targeted Investment Strategy**, a community-driven project to pull private and public investment together to spur growth. **"The South Side needs action now,"** said Hudson, chair of Council's Jobs and Economic Development Committee. **"But with limited resources, we need to be strategic with our investment dollars. This can't be the City acting alone. It will take partnerships with every business owner, every resident, and every person who has a stake in writing the success story of the South Side."** Up first is assessing the area's strengths to better determine what types of businesses have market viability. Neighborhood input is crucial. In addition to studying the existing commercial and manufacturing assets, attention will focus on housing, service, and infrastructure needs.

"One of the keys will be building on the strong foundation that already exists," Thomas said. **"Here on the Southside we have committed residents and business owners who don't give up in the face of a long economic downturn."**

"PAY AS YOU GROW" *IN ACTON*_____

Council recently created a tax increment financing (TIF) district to capture private funds to help pay for roads needed for new housing and commercial development expected in the Hayden Run Growth Corridor in northwest Columbus. Last year Council member [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) initiated the traffic study as the basis of the pay as you grow concept, and Council and Mayor Coleman forged an agreement with area developers to construct needed capital improvements without putting the cost solely on the backs of income taxpayers. **"The Hayden Run concept means the private sector pays a fair share of costs to handle increased traffic associated with new development,"** said O'Shaughnessy. The TIF and contributions from developers are expected to spin off nearly \$30 million, money that traditionally would have come from the City. The Corridor includes approximately 450 acres, enough to accommodate construction of approximately 2,650 residential units (single-family residences, town homes and ranch condominiums) and benefiting commercial development to service new residents.

Council member [Mary Jo Hudson](#) noted the benefit of preserving scarce City capital dollars. **"Pay as You Grow is the right model to maximize the City's limited capacity to make strategic investments that can build our job base."**



Maryellen O'Shaughnessy and Hayden Corridor.

GETTING EXCITED ABOUT RECYCLING

Council members want to help the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) expand recycling in the City of Columbus. By late April about 12,000 households in the southeast area of the City get a chance to take advantage of the Blue Bag Program. Residents will be able to “blue bag” their clean paper, bottles, cans and other recyclables.



“We want to make it as easy as possible for residents,” said [Patsy Thomas](#). **“Recycling saves valuable landfill space and protects the environment.”**

Council members Tavares, Habash, O’Shaughnessy, Boyce and Thomas “getting green” with Blue Bags.

The bags go out with regular trash for delivery by City refuse crews to SWACO for separation at a Material Recovery Facility. Advocates hope to expand participation to 20,000 by yearend by identifying additional neighborhoods. Bags can be purchased either by calling 614 784-BLUE, or by visiting www.bluebagcolumbus.com.

BOYCE PUSHES SAFE PLAYGROUNDS INITIATIVE

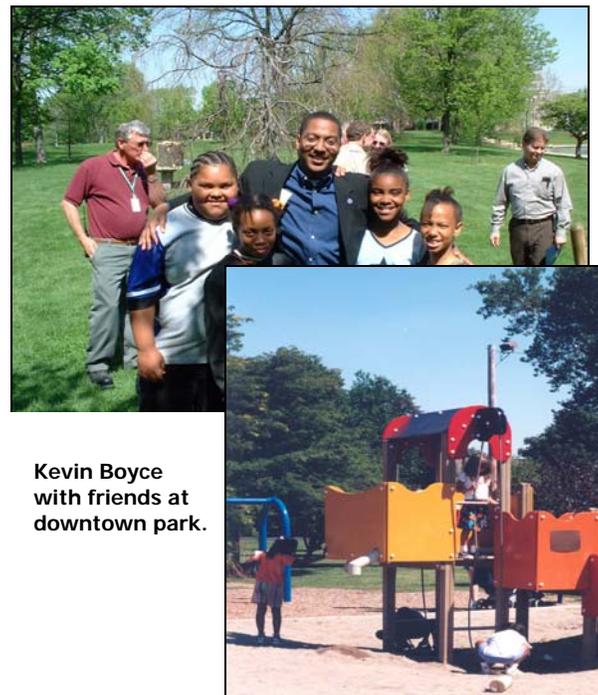
Council member [Kevin Boyce](#) has been working with the City’s Recreation and Parks Department, Columbus City Schools, KidsOhio.org., and Children’s Hospital to improve playground safety at school parks. The Safe Playground Initiative will target up to four school sites for improved safety features, including rubberized pads and new equipment designed to reduce injuries.

“Parks should be more than just a fun place for kids to visit,” said Boyce. **“They need to be safe, and parents need to feel good about taking their children there.”**

The initiative is a collaborative effort to include a fund raising component and creation of an advisory group. One selection criteria will be areas underserved by City parks.

According to the National Program for Playground Safety, a leading non-profit organization that promotes playground safety, each year in the United States over 200,000 children sustain playground injuries that require emergency room treatment.

Stay tuned for future details.



Kevin Boyce with friends at downtown park.

BIG DARBY PLANNING ACCORD UPDATE

In an unprecedented move, local governments are closer to developing a common vision for future development that protects the Big Darby watershed. At its April 4th meeting Columbus City Council passed legislation to engage a consultant to help partners flesh out the agreement. Columbus led the way by picking up \$179,000 of the \$500,000 project. Columbus City Council twice previously imposed a moratorium on the extension of Columbus water and sewer lines into the area pending completion of a comprehensive, intergovernmental planning accord.



Council President [Matt Habash](#) reminded listeners of the importance of preserving the Big Darby. **“Columbus occupies just one percent of the watershed,” Habash said. “Still, it is critical that we work with neighboring suburbs and townships to take action now to leave this beautiful natural resource for future generations to enjoy.”**



Nine other governments are on board with the effort, including: Franklin County; Hilliard; Grove City; Harrisburg; and Brown, Norwich, Pleasant, Prairie, and Washington townships. All occupy some portion of the 370,000-acre watershed.

COLORFUL REMINDER

Council member [Mary Jo Hudson](#) presented a resolution from the Columbus City Council to Pat Lyons, executive director for Prevent Child Abuse Ohio, and John Saros, director of Franklin County Children’s Services, at the Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign kick-off at Children’s Hospital.

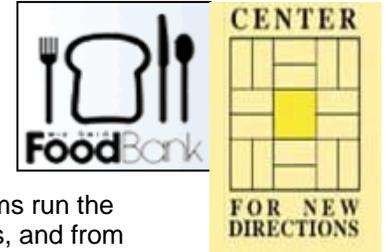
Pinwheels for Prevention is designed to show the public in a very dramatic way that child abuse and neglect happens in every community. Each pinwheel represents one reported case of child abuse and neglect. In 2003, there were 7,388 reports of case abuse and neglect in Franklin County. Council member Hudson encouraged all community members to focus on prevention as part of an overall plan to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect.



Hudson stands in a field of pinwheels with Pat Lyons at Children’s Hospital.

COUNCIL STEPS UP TO HELP THE NEEDY

Council amended the 2005 budget to maintain current funding levels for vital social service programs to meet critical needs of the community's most vulnerable families. On an annual basis the City provides about \$3.2 million to various non-profit organizations like the United Way; FirstLink, a central referral agency directing families needing help to the right programs; Maryhaven; Lifecare Alliance; and Huckleberry House, among others. The City is but one of several funders for such organizations, who collectively ensure that help is there for those who need it. Programs run the gamut, ranging from childcare and senior care to crisis counseling for youth and adults, and from emergency food support to literacy education and mediation services.



“This economy has been particularly tough for many families in our community, and it’s getting tougher,” said Council member [Charleta Tavares](#). **“City funding often fills service gaps, and for many program users, offers a last chance for help.”**



As chair of the Council's Health, Housing and Human Services

Committee, Tavares heads up Council efforts to ensure on-going City support for services that many residents take for granted. **“Probably each of us knows someone, or some family, that needed a helping hand at one time or another,”** Tavares notes. **“People need to feel safe and secure and have hope for better days ahead. These programs give them that hope, and as a community, we should never underestimate how they contribute to our overall quality of life.”**



Some of the Columbus-based social service agencies supported by Columbus.



Help save a life! If your company has one or more automated external defibrillator (AED) units on site, please register with the City's Fire Department to enhance emergency medical response. Click on the following link:

www.columbuscitycouncil.org/secondchance.