Bob Deskins is the owner and President of Lightning Demolition. He built his company from one machine that he was given as a debt payment. Now, Lightning Demolition is recognizable and a successful demolition company in the City of Cleveland. Mr. Deskins is an advocate for his community by donating his time and services to area organizations like Union Miles Development Corporation, local gardens, the APL, and Kiwanis.

On October 12th, Union Miles Development Corporation, Councilman Zack Reed of Cleveland City Council, and Miles Park Elementary School were excited to take part in the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and dedication of the Bob Deskins Outdoor Learning Garden to Mr. Bob Deskins and his family.

Community residents described their need for a location for safe community outdoor events equipped with adequate seating and lighting. The Learning Garden will have the comfort of raised seating, a covered pergola with gutters to capture rain water, and permeable pavers lining the walkway. This community garden park will be able to hold events, activities, and demonstrations for the community and local schools.

You can help make this beautification project a reality. Talk to your neighbors, friends, and families and ask them to donate to be part of the change that’s happening in the Union Miles neighborhood. You can donate in person at Union Miles Development Corporation, 9250 Miles Park Ave., or online at: https://www.crowdrise.com/the-bob-deskins-outdoor-learning-garden/fundraiser/unionmiles
Calling all Street Clubs of Union Miles neighborhood - there will be a President’s Meeting on the last Monday of each month. At these meetings we will discuss all of the concerns of the community, upcoming events and activities, and how to establish and create new street clubs. We have big hopes for the coming new year of 2017, and we look to build, connect, and energize the entire Union Miles neighborhood. All meetings will be held at the new Killingsworth Meeting Place located inside the Miles Pointe Shopping Plaza at 4127 E. 131st at 6:00 p.m.

Are you interested in community organizing? Do you want to help build a better future for the youth in your community? If you answered yes to the previous questions then you may be interested in joining a street block club or creating your own street block club.

Contact Christopher James of Union Miles Development Corporation at 216-341-0757 for any questions that you have regarding ways to connect with your community.

Community Serving Community at Thanksgiving

Ms. Kim Myers, a resident of the Union Miles neighborhood along with her family and the Killingsworth family, hosted a Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway for the community. With over 125 baskets filled with turkeys, sides, eggs, and canned goods, the community was able to get in the holiday spirit of giving early. When asked why they wanted to have this event, Ms. Kim stated, “Me and my kids just wanted to do something for the community.”

As the temperature falls colder moments like these where community residents can come together to serve others in need warms the heart and is surely something we can all be thankful for. Community residents serving their community like Ms. Kim and her family brings new meaning to the terms “Happy Thanksgiving” and “Merry Christmas.”

Passing the legacy down to the younger generation, man (seen wearing the red jacket and red jeans) stated, “We plan to continue doing this for all the holidays.” The families are planning a Christmas giveaway. The biggest reason for the holiday spirit was “we just wanted to help out.” As a family they pulled their money together, contacted grocery stores and supermarkets for large pickups, and presented items to their neighbors for a smile and a hug in return.

A special shoutout goes to Patrick, Meechie, Alex, Windy, Tammy, Ms. Vickie, and Ms. Kim’s grandkids Keith and Saven. A special thanks goes out to Joe for delivery and pickup of food, and Mr. Joe for door security. Be on the lookout Union Miles for the community is ready and willing to serve you.

Calling All Street Clubs

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Union Miles MyCom Leadership Roundtable Council for Neighborhood Youth will be held the last Wednesday of each month from 6-7pm. Stakeholders, from the Union Miles community, residents, business, organizations, and most importantly the youth of our community will all be in attendance to discuss issues facing our community, what the youth would like to see in their community, and ways to find solutions to the negative impact that our community has on our youth. This meeting will give attendees a chance to share and comment on opportunities and resources available in and around our growing community that can have positive effects on our youth and residents.

Next MyCom Meeting Jan. 25th

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North Coast Container manufactures high quality 55 gallon steel drums helping products, hazardous or not, get to their destination safely and securely.

NCC became part of the Union Miles community in 1983 and has been growing ever since currently employing more than 160 people.

They continue to be active in our community by supporting Coats for Kids, Cleveland Clinic Children’s Gala, Boy Scouts of America, ALS Gala, and other agencies that better the lives of people in our community. Giving back is a fundamental part of North Coast Container’s culture.
Community Gathers for ‘Make A Difference Day’

On October 22nd, 2016 Union Miles youth and residents, First Street Coalition, 4th District Police Department, Mt. Pleasant NOW, MyCOM, and Union Miles Development Corporation all came together to help support the street beautification of East 131st for “Make A Difference Day.” Youth, residents, and organizations gathered from all over the neighborhood to build a sense of community and pride.

Community Conversation: Solutions for Violence
Using Public Health to Prevent Violence

On October 27th, 2016 Councilman Reed hosted the third installment of his series of Community Conversation on Violence. This series focused on using Public Health as a means to prevent violence in our community. A four-person panel of public health professionals discussed the importance of using public health as a model to help youth and adults cope with the effects of violence. The panel also discussed ways public health can be used in a larger role with helping to prevent violent crime.

Youth who are part of the MyCOM network from John Adams and other Cleveland Public Schools appeared on a panel to discuss how violence has affected their lives in and out of school. They had the opportunity to share how they would change their environment to better address the issue of violence in their community. Students shared stories of how they feel unsafe going to school in the morning and leaving school in the afternoon. To aid their discussion, students identified safe and unsafe spaces within their respective communities.

The photos depict what youth of the Union Miles community identified as safe and unsafe spaces.

Storefront Renovation Program

The City of Cleveland’s Storefront Renovation Program (SRP) offers business owners an opportunity to renovate the interior, exterior and/or affix signage to a business in Ward 2. This program offers a percentage of your project with funding in the form of reimbursement for renovation cost. The latest business to complete an exterior renovation with signage was Bennett’s Barber Shop located at 3789 East 131st Street. Mr. Bennett is really pleased with the finished product of his renovation. If you are a business in Ward 2 and would like to know more about this great opportunity, contact LaShorn K. Caldwell at (216) 341-0757.

The City of Cleveland’s Storefront Renovation Program (SRP) is an exterior rehabilitation program that combines financial incentives (rebate or loan) with free City design assistance.