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Blogs

A look at Parsons Avenue

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The Parsons Avenue Redevelopment Corp. put together the tour for more than 50 people, many of whom hadn't seen some of the changes that boosters hope will ultimately make the area more attractive for businesses. So the members of the group visited Nationwide Children's Hospital, which completed an \$850 million expansion in 2012, then went through the neighborhood south of the hospital where new homes have been built and others renovated. They drove past a closed adult book store on Parsons Avenue, where the group hopes to attract an investor to redevelop. And they looked at the former Reeb Elementary School, which is being transformed into a \$12.5 million social services center that will open this year, then briefly visited a new \$10 million apartment complex for seniors. John Mally of NAI Ohio Equities is marketing a commercial property at Whittier Street and Parsons Avenue. He hopes the redevelopment pushing east from German Village will boost Parsons Avenue.

Real-estate brokers and other businesspeople saw first-hand some of the new developments springing up on the South Side during a bus tour of the Parsons Avenue corridor today.

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Mike Whitman, vice president of the Georgetown Co., and a board member of the redevelopment group, said he believes the corridor has many development opportunities, and noted it doesn't hurt that the hospital has close to 10,000 employees.

Joel Teaford, the executive director of the Parsons Avenue group, said he hopes the tour leaves an impression. Brian Higgins, a principal with Arch City Development, said, "If you haven't come down here the past few years, there's been lots of improvements."