

MAKING THE DEAL

\$1.2 million goes into renovation of Prospect house

The renovation of the Kies-Murfey House, 4208 Prospect Ave., is just about complete.

The developer was Second Generation Properties LLC, led by Michael Chesler.

Work on the now-8,000-square-foot building started in August.

The St. Luke's Foundation, a nonprofit organization that aims to improve the health and well-being of people in Northeast Ohio, is the primary tenant. Office space also is available at the garden level. The third level is under contract.

What was really interesting about this renovation was the demolition of the former home of Arabica Bakery, which was a plain brick building that hid much of the front first floor of Kies-Murfey.

The renovation cost about \$1.2 million. Cleveland put up \$717,000 in loans and grants through its Empowerment Zone and Storefront Renovation Program. Money also came from Provident Bank.

The architect was Scott Dimit of GSI Architects Inc., and R.W. Clark Co. was the general contractor.

Chesler Group back in business

As for Chesler, his contract under the Second Generation Properties LLC expired at the end of last year. He is now back at the helm of a reconstituted Chesler Group Inc., which sat dormant for three years.

Chesler said he decided not to renew his contract with Second Generation.

The Chesler Group is a redeveloper of commercial buildings with a special emphasis on the reuse of distressed commercial properties. The company also acquires, leases and manages



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property. Its portfolio includes the McGuffey School, 1515 West 29th St.; the New York Central Railroad Station in Elyria; the Michael Groh Mansion, 3043 Superior Ave.; and the McBride Mansion, 3209 Pros-

pect Ave., among others

Armstrong opens office in Ohio

Armstrong Development, a national retail and commercial developer in Pittsburgh, has opened an Ohio office, Armstrong Development-Ohio Inc.

Armstrong entered the Cleveland market to develop branch sites for an unnamed, out-of-town bank. Armstrong is also developing grocery-anchored centers throughout Florida.

The company's Ohio office will be managed by John Poulos, Lee Burger and Jon Burger, all Clevelanders who are former executives with Trammell Crow.

Armstrong Development, formerly Armstrong Gustine Development, started as a local retail brokerage company and grew into a premier developer. Armstrong also develops drug-stores in Pennsylvania, Texas, Nevada, Arizona, Washington, D.C., and Florida.

Stylish offices sought

Is your hip office a regular stop when co-workers give tours of the building? Is your outrageously decorated cubicle the envy of your fellow Dilberts? If your sense of style extends beyond your footwear to your workspace, send me an e-mail or give me a call. The most creatively — or unusually — decorated offices, cubicles and desks soon will be featured every week in a new feature in the Business section.