

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Saturday, September 1, 2012; St. John Cantius Tremont Polish Festival: St. John Cantius Parishioner Helena Martinichin serves up some pierogies.

FREE

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# Plain Press

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR CLEVELAND'S WEST SIDE NEIGHBORHOODS



## Parent group presents its plan at Board of Education meeting

by Chuck Hoven

Parents of children in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District presented their own educational plan to the Cleveland Board of Education at its September 25th Business Meeting at Tremont Montessori School. The plan titled *Speaking Out*

*of School: Parent Voices on Public Education in Cleveland* evolved from listening circles involving 100 to 150 Cleveland parents. Working with parents in developing the plan were the community organizing staff of Ohio Communities United. Staff members from the Annenberg

Institute for School Reform at Brown University and the staff of Innovation Ohio helped with the research and writing of the report that was presented to all the members of the Board of Education.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

In developing the report, parents met in listening circles that were held in the Central, Glenville, Clark Fulton, Buckeye, St. Clair and Harvard neighborhoods. The Listening Circles in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood were held at Lincoln West High School and at Esperanza. A Teach-In was held at Trinity Commons in downtown Cleveland.

The resulting plan is human centered and based on building strong communities. It stresses the importance of building long-term relationships between teachers and students, and teachers and the community. According to the plan, "The voices of parents and community members are reinforced with research and best-practices provided by the Annenberg Institute for School Reform's Center for Education Organizing."

The parents and authors of the report say they intend "for this report to be used as a tool to bring

continued on page 7

## Discussion centers on parking at South of Lorain Chatham/Monroe Corridor Block Club meeting

About fifty residents and stakeholders, attending a South of Lorain Chatham/Monroe Corridor Block Club meeting on September 4th at the St. Ignatius High School Breen Center, spent much of the meeting discussing parking problems in the

neighborhood.

The discussion started with a presentation by Hansa House, of their plans to add a brewery, restaurant and outdoor patio to their current building which serves as a retail outlet for European imported

goods. The proposal calls for 246 seats in the new establishment. Because the business is located in a Pedestrian Retail Overlay District, the parking requirements are one third less than in other area. The

continued on page 6



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Saturday, September 1, 2012; St. Rocco Festival: St. Rocco Parishioner Joe Bucci serves up an Italian sausage.

## The Cleveland Hostel welcomes guests from around the world to Ohio City

by Chuck Hoven

The Cleveland Modern American Hostel, 2090 W. 25th Street held a grand opening ceremony on September 12th. Mark Raymond, the owner and manager of Cleveland Hostel, showed visitors around the hostel which features a number of amenities including a roof top patio, shared kitchen facilities for travelers, free wi-fi, and bicycle storage.

Raymond, who lives in the hostel, says he traveled quite a bit, often by himself, staying in hostels along the way. At the hostels, he was able to hook-up with people and talk about places where they have been and learn about places to visit. Now, as the proprietor of the Cleveland Modern American Hostel, Raymond says, "I'm happy we are open and welcoming guests from all over the world to Ohio City and Cleveland. I enjoy showing them around and answering their questions."

Raymond says visitors often ask about where to go in Cleveland, and he points out various locations on a map. The West Side Market is a favorite destination and when visitors ask if they

can walk there, he can tell them it is just up the street.

The hostel, on West 25th Street just a block South of the West Side Market, has already attracted visitors from many different countries since it opened its doors on August 18th. Raymond says guests have visited from Brazil, North Africa, Japan, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, Sweden, German and from around the United States.

In creating the hostel, Raymond leased the space from the Maron Family who owns the building. He then, with financial assistance from his family, began a roughly \$600,000 conversion of the space into a 15 room hostel which can accommodate up to 60 guests at a time. Raymond says, in addition to financing from his family, he participated in the City of Cleveland Storefront renovation program and received a grant from Cleveland Colectivo. Raymond says he also received a donation of bunk beds and furniture from the Stanford House Hostel that used to operate in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

According to hostel's website, continued on page 7



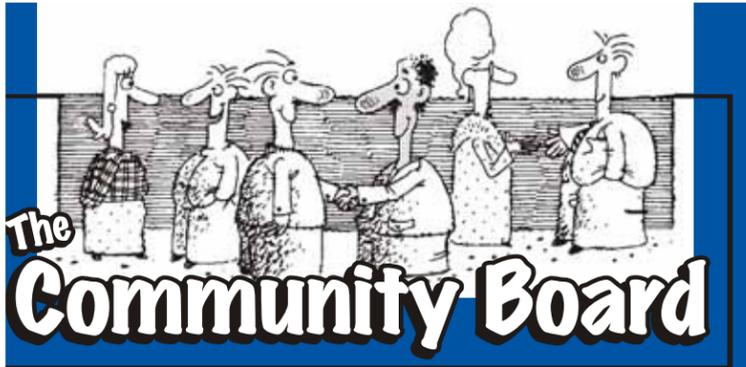
PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Saturday, September 15, 2012; Merrick House Children's Village at the Tremont Arts and Cultural Festival in Lincoln Park: Vivian Parschen of Troupe Shabaana Cabaret Belly Dancers takes the lead as children imitate her belly dancing performance.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Wednesday, September 12, 2012; Grand Opening, The Cleveland Modern American Hostel, 2090 W. 25th Street: Mark Raymond, the proprietor of the Cleveland Hostel, his father Widd Raymond and Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson chat on the rooftop patio of the hostel.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Saturday, September 15, 2012; Merrick House Children's Village at the Tremont Arts and Cultural Festival in Lincoln Park: A large piece of chalk and a sidewalk help keep Isla Anderson, age 20 months, occupied.



The Plain Press Community Board is sponsored by Organize! Ohio through donations from readers and supporters

**ART**  
**HISPANIC HERITAGE, HISPANIC ART** exhibit, including works by Near West Side artists, continues through Oct. 15 at Back Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood. For info, call 216-521-2540 or visit [www.beckcenter.org](http://www.beckcenter.org).  
**OHIO ARTS COUNCIL** is accepting online nominations for its annual Governor's Awards for outstanding contributions to the arts statewide, regionally and nationally. Deadline for nominations is Fri., Oct. 12 at 5 pm, and deadline for support letters is Fri., Oct. 19 at 5 pm. For info, visit [www.oac.state.oh.us](http://www.oac.state.oh.us) or contact Karine Aswad at [karine.aswad@oac.state.oh.us](mailto:karine.aswad@oac.state.oh.us) or 614-728-4445.  
**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF WEST SIDE MARKET** includes the West Side Market Fest & Parade on Sun., Oct. 7, from 11 am-8 pm. It includes a market-themed parade beginning at noon, local restaurant and market food vendors, music, beer gardens, children's activities, and street festival. The West Side

Market will be open that Sunday from 1-6 pm. The Ohio City Farm at Bridge and W. 24<sup>th</sup> will also be open and host a Harvest Pie Baking Contest. Visit [ohiocityfarm.com](http://ohiocityfarm.com) for contest entry forms, which are due Oct. 3 at 5 pm. For information on street closings festival weekend, visit [www.wsm100.org](http://www.wsm100.org) or call Ohio City Inc. at 216-781-3222.

**EVENTS**  
**CLEVELAND CATHOLIC WORKER OPEN HOUSE** will be Sun., Sep. 30, from 1-4 pm at 2082 Fulton Rd. (first block south of Lorain, west side of the street). For info, call 216-631-3059.

**FRIENDS OF CANAL BASIN PARK** will meet on Wed., Oct. 24 from 5:30-7:30 pm at Sammy's in the Flats. Topic will be "Canal Basin Park - Framing a Vision: Next Steps in the Planning & Development Process". For info, call Ohio Canal Corridor, 216-520-1825.

**LEGAL AID SOCIETY** will hold free advise clinic for low-income individuals with civil legal issues, first-come, first-serve, at West Side Catholic Center, 3135 Lorain, on Sat., Sep. 29, 9:45-11:45 am., and at El Barrio, 5209 Detroit, on Tues., Oct. 23, from 5-7 pm. For info, call 216 -687-1900 or visit [www.lasclev.org](http://www.lasclev.org). Legal Aid will also offer a Bankruptcy By-Pass Clinic, by appointment only, on Wed., Oct. 17, from 5-7 pm at Legal Aid, 1223 West Sixth Street. Call 888-813-3777 for an appointment for the Bankruptcy By-Pass Clinic.

**SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM DAY** on Sat., Sep. 29 offers free admission to participating Smithsonian-affiliated museums throughout the country. Tickets must be printed beforehand from [www.smithsonianmag.com](http://www.smithsonianmag.com).

**GARDENING**  
**COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA) WORKSHOP**, presented by Peter McDermott or Urban Growth Farm and the Heart of the City CSA, will focus on setting up a CSA business model, farm planning, and record-keeping. It will be held Wed., Oct. 10, 6-8 pm at Urban Community Schools's Multipurpose Room, 4909 Lorain. For info call OSU Extension's Urban Agriculture Program, 216-429-8200 or visit [www.cuyahoga.osu.edu](http://www.cuyahoga.osu.edu).

**HEALTH**  
**FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS** will be held on Fri., Oct. 19, 10:30 am-noon, at Dave's Supermarket, 2700 Carroll Ave.  
**FREE FLU SHOTS** will be available for the first 750 people who visit Lu-

theran Hospital's health information booth during the West Side Market Centennial Celebration on Sunday, Oct. 7. Lutheran's flu shot tent will be in front of the hospital, 1979 W. 25 Street, from 11 am - 3 pm.  
**NAMI GREATER CLEVELAND** offers support groups for mental health consumers throughout Greater Cleveland, including at its headquarters office, 2012 W.25<sup>th</sup> Street, Sixth Floor. For schedules and information, call NAMI at 216-875-7776.

**OTHER**  
**BIKE RACK GIVEAWAY** by Metro Metal Works, a program of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, will donate 50 bike racks to Cleveland businesses, thanks to funding by the Dominion Foundation and the City of Cleveland. To nominate a bike rack location, visit [www.lutheranmetro.org](http://www.lutheranmetro.org). Voting closes Mon., Sep. 31.

**VOLUNTEER**  
**WEST SIDE MARKET CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION** needs volunteers for beverage sales as well as staffing kids' activity booth for the celebration festivities on Sun., Oct. 7. For info contact Zoe Adams at [zadams@ohiocity.org](mailto:zadams@ohiocity.org) or register to volunteer through [www.shiftboard.com](http://www.shiftboard.com).

**PURITAS NURSERY** is planning for its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Train Display at the Nursery, 19201 Puritas Ave. Volunteers interested in helping set up the display or being a "train engineer" during the season can call Dale Heyink at 216-267-5350.

**CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA** is looking for adult volunteers for ushers, tour guides and store volunteers, as well as middle and high school students for Junior Volunteer Corps. For info call the Severance Hall House Manager's office at 216-231-7425 or email [jdiehl@cleveland-orchestra.com](mailto:jdiehl@cleveland-orchestra.com).

**YOUTH**  
**LIGHTS ON AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**, part of the national celebration, will be held at Salvation Army Ohio City, 4409 Clark Ave., on Thu., Oct. 18, from 5-6 pm. For info, call Lucy at 216-631-1515, ext.20.

**ESPERANZA BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE** seeks donations of needed school supplies for 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders as well as funds to help purchase school uniforms. For info, call Esperanza at 216-651-7178 or visit [www.esperanzainc.org](http://www.esperanzainc.org).

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES FREE HEAD START** for ages 3-5 offers part day sessions at Iglesia Emmanuel, 3525 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, and includes part and full day sessions at St. Ignatius of Antioch, 10205 Lorain (at West Blvd). For info, call 216-334-2945.

**SPEND, SAVE AND SHARE!** Is an early financial education program for children ages 3-5 and their parents or guardians at all branches of the Cleveland Public Library or Youth Services at Main Library. Completing three easy "jobs" between Oct 1 and Nov. 30 will earn your child a piggy bank. For info, call 216-623-2824.

continued on page 7

## Dear Plain Press Readers and Supporters,

**New Red Tape Snarls Welfare** -- This was the front page headline for the first issue of the Plain Press in 1971, a free community newspaper founded to present issues and community news to residents of Cleveland's west side. 41 years later the Plain Press is still presenting issues and news at no charge to its 40,000 readers on a monthly basis.

Last year as it celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Plain Press faced an uncertain future with increased costs and decreased ad revenues. After 40 years of service to the near west side community the Plain Press was in real jeopardy and in need of finding a new source of revenue. The Plain Press reached out to readers and supporters for help and you came through in a big way to help sustain the newspaper.

Building on the success of last year's fundraiser, we hope to make an annual fundraiser a regular event. Thus, we are again asking you to make a donation to the Plain Press to ensure that the newspaper moves forward. To mark its 41st anniversary we are asking you for a donation of \$41 or a reflection of its 41 years of operation (e.g. \$82, \$141, \$410). This contribution will be tax deductible. It will help subsidize the operations of the newspaper, but will be specifically used to support the Plain Press' Community Board that lists free events and resources for area non-profit organizations.

A separate Plain Press fund has been established for the newspaper by Organize! Ohio (a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization). Checks should be made out to Organize Ohio and sent to 3500 Lorain Avenue, Suite 501 A, Cleveland, Ohio 44113. Your contribution will be tax deductible. To make online donations you can link to the Organize! Ohio Pay Pal through the Plain Press website: [www.plainpress.org](http://www.plainpress.org).

The Plain Press has served as your community newspaper for 41 years. We call upon you to make a contribution with the goal for the Plain Press to continue to serve as our community newspaper for the next 41 years.

We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Gail Long (Fundraising Committee)

Larry Bresler (Fundraising Committee & Co-Coordinator 1970's)

Chuck Hoven (Managing Editor - 1988-present)

Deborah Rose Sadlon (Editor - 1990-present)

Leo Jeffres (Secretary, on behalf of the Board of Trustees)

Here is my contribution of \_\_\_\_\_ \$41 \_\_\_\_\_ \$82 \_\_\_\_\_ \$141 \_\_\_\_\_

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Checks should be made out to **Organize Ohio** and sent to: **Organize Ohio, 3500 Lorain Avenue, Suite 501 A, Cleveland, Ohio 44113**. Your contribution will be tax deductible. To make online donations link to Organize! Ohio's Pay Pal via [www.plainpress.org](http://www.plainpress.org).

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## CMSD Levy Endorsed by Ohio City, Inc. and Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization

To the editor:

The Near West Side neighborhoods of Ohio City and Detroit Shoreway are experiencing incredible development and investment. Market Square and Gordon Square are thriving commercial districts and new and rehabilitated housing is booming as more people are attracted to our community including young families. We have an opportunity this election to make a very important investment in our future: funding the education of our children.

### LETTER

Education is even more important today because of the skills needed to gain employment. Jobs in manufacturing often require technology skills. Individuals without quality education are often faced with low wage employment and consuming more in benefits than they contribute in taxes. It is essential that we graduate children from high school. In recent years, the Cleveland Municipal School District (CMSD) has made marked improvements. Graduation rates have increased by 23% since the last levy was passed in 1996. We need to continue this progress in order for Cleveland to be competitive in the global economy and retain and attract businesses to Cleveland. High quality schools affect the property values in a neighborhood. That's why voters in Shaker Heights and Lakewood consistently support school levies.

Lakewood has passed 5 levies in the past 15 years. In contrast, Cleveland has passed only 3 levies in 42 years!

The *Plain Press* editorial in September raised concerns about whether or not tax abatement is a sound development policy for Cleveland and the contribution of tax exempt organizations to our economy. Under Mayor Frank Jackson, the Cleveland Schools have been reimbursed for potential loss of revenue from commercial tax abatement. The CMSD must approve those abatements that impact the schools revenue. We need to remember that businesses contribute approximately 50% of revenues generated from the levy.

We can't be distracted from two obvious realities: CMSD needs increased revenues to be successful and children deserve high quality education.

Approving this levy is critical to build on our progress in our neighborhoods. We hope that you join Mayor Frank Jackson, Councilmen Joe Cimperman and Matt Zone, and Ohio City, Inc. and Detroit Shoreway CDO in supporting this levy. Please contact us if you would like to discuss the levy or wish to volunteer.

*Eric Wobser*  
Executive Director  
Ohio City, Inc.  
*Jeff Ramsey*  
Executive Director  
Detroit Shoreway CDO

### Register to vote -- options available online or in person

The deadline to register to vote in the Tuesday, November 6th Election is Monday, October 8th. Those wishing to register can download a voter registration form at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections Website at: [bow.cuyahogacounty.us](http://bow.cuyahogacounty.us), call the Board of elections at 216-443-3298 to have a card mailed to you or register in person at a number of locations. You can also register to vote at the Board of Elections, 2925 Euclid Avenue. A number of locations on the West Side also have voter registration forms as well; they include: the Main office at Rhodes High School, Lincoln West High School and Max Hayes High School, the May Dugan Center at 4115 Bridge Avenue, and the Spanish American Committee at 4407

Lorain Avenue. To be eligible to vote in the November 6th election, your registration card must be postmarked by October 8th.

To be eligible to register to vote in Cuyahoga County you must be a United States Citizen, be at least 18 years of age on election day and be a Cuyahoga County resident for at least 30 days before the election. You also must register at least 30 days prior to the election (when that day falls on a Sunday -- the following Monday) in order to be eligible to vote.

Ohio registered voters who need to submit a change of address because they have moved can now make the change online at: [myohio-vote.com](http://myohio-vote.com) or by visiting the locations listed above.



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# St. Ignatius Parish to honor Church in the City volunteers who oversee Share-A-Meal and Food Pantry programs

by Chuck Hoven

At the Boulevard Bash on Saturday, October 20th, St. Ignatius of Antioch

Parish will honor Don and Arlene Spence from St. Ladislus Church in Westlake. Don and Arlene Spence have

run the Church in the City Partnership's Food Pantry and Share-A-Meal program at St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish on West Boulevard and Lorain Avenue since the program started in 1994.

Sister Dianne Piunno, Pastoral Associate at St. Ignatius Parish, who has worked closely with Don and Arlene Spence says, "Don and Arlene Spence with a 'cast of thousands' have made it their mission to care for those experiencing rough times. I have called them at any time of day or night to ask for their assistance when emergencies arise, and there is always an unquestionable response, 'I'll get right on it!' What a tremendous response. To see the assurance on the faces of those who are eager to hear that response is truly the mission of our partnership with St. Ladislus Church, Westlake and Saint Ignatius of Antioch Church, Cleveland."

"This partnership predated Bishop Anthony Pilla's request that churches,

far and near, work together in order to reach out to a greater number of people. Under the leadership of Don and Arlene, dozens of volunteers from both parishes have prepared and served numerous meals. They have set up, distributed, and put away enormous quantities of food for those in this near westside community who are hungry, in need, or just looking for social interaction," said Sister Dianne Piunno.

Don and Arlene Spence coordinate the efforts of over 100 volunteers involved in gathering food, distributing it to those in need and serving community meals. It is not a new experience for the couple to coordinate a large group, after all, they raised 13 children (nine boys and four girls) and now have thirty six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

The Food Pantry they administer is held from 3:30-5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month for residents

living in zip codes 44102 and 44111. Over two hundred families have signed up for the Food Pantry, bringing in proof of residence and documentation of the number of people in their family. Participating families are given at least a three day, supply of food each month. Participating families and individuals pick food from tables in the cafeteria filled with items such as frozen meat & fish, cereal, milk, rice, pasta, pastries, bread and various canned goods. Volunteers from St. Ladislus and St. Ignatius parishes help fill the tables with food and pass out the goods from the tables. Participating families often bring shopping carts to fill with goods. Members of the Cleveland Guardian Angles help lift carts or boxes filled with groceries down the steps of Lorain Avenue entrance to the McIntyre Center where the school cafeteria is located.

The Share-A-Meal Program offers a **continued on page 4**



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Tuesday, September 11, 2012; Food Pantry, St. Ignatius of Antioch School Cafeteria, Lorain Avenue at West Blvd; Barbara Sivak displays the bread available at the Food Pantry.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Tuesday, September 11, 2012; Food Pantry, St. Ignatius of Antioch School Cafeteria, Lorain Avenue at West Blvd; St. Ladislus Parish volunteers Don Spence and Arlene Spence will be honored at the St. Ignatius Parish West Blvd Bash on October 19th for their many years of coordinating volunteers and securing food for the Food Pantry and Community Meals.

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## CHURCH IN THE CITY VOLUNTEERS

continued from page 4

hot meal and companionship on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the St. Ignatius Cafeteria. Over 300 meals are served each month. There is also a Food Pantry after each meal, where guests can choose from available items. On Share-A-Meal days, Don and Arlene Spence arrive about 2 p.m. to begin planning and set up for the meal. After the school children have left the building, other volunteers begin arriving from 3:30 - 4:00 p.m. The meal begins at 5:30 p.m. From ten to twelve volunteers help to cook and prepare the meals.

Arlene Spence says in 1993 when then Cleveland Catholic Diocese Bishop Anthony Pilla started the Church in the City Program, St. Ladislav chose to partner with St. Ignatius of Antioch Church in Cleveland. Arlene Spence says the staffs of the two parishes already had a relationship, so the partnership was a natural one. Don and Arlene Spence have high praise for the parish staff's they work with to implement the programs.

Don Spence praised Fr. McGonegal and Pastoral Associate Sister Dianne Piuino from St. Ignatius Parish and Father Don Snyder and his predecessor at St. Ladislav, saying when I make a request for the programs, "they never give me any arguments."

Arlene Spence says the program started slow. A volunteer Sunday was held at St. Ladislav and a core group from the St. Vincent De Paul Society at St. Ladislav signed on to help with the Church in the City effort. From that first volunteer Sunday the program has grown to a large operation. Volunteers from St. Ladislav were recruited to make regular pickups of donated food at the Westlake Pepperage Farm, Trader Joe's and Giant Eagle stores and from people that call with food donations.

Volunteers go to Pepperage Farm to pick up donations of hundreds of loaves of bread. They also gather bread and produce donated by Giant Eagle. The Spences are particularly proud of their connection to Trader Joe's. They

said the daughter of a member of St. Ladislav Parish made the connection to Trader Joe's. Don Spence said Trader Joe's doesn't freeze anything, thus they have meat and fish to donate on a regular basis. Arlene Spence stressed that, in order to make the agreement with Trader Joe's for the donations, we had to agree to have a volunteer come each morning at a designated time to pick up the donations. Volunteers are each assigned a day to pick up the meat, fish and other goods from Trader Joe's. Arlene Spence said the donations from Trader Joe's are very important to the Food Pantry, "Without them we would not have meat."

Other perishable food items, which can't be used immediately, are given to other programs in the neighborhood such as St. Augustine's Hunger Center, St. Herman's House of Hospitality, West Side Catholic Center and the Keating Center.

Parishioners at St. Ladislav and St. Ignatius also donate funds to help the Church in the City Programs. "Our parishioners are so generous," says Arlene Spence. Cash donations range from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per month. With these funds, Don Spence says he can make two trips a month with a large Ford van to the Cleveland Food Bank where he and volunteers purchase and load up about 3,000 pounds of food per month. Don Spence says the Food Bank provides food at a discount making it possible to serve about 300 meals a month for about \$2 per person.

The Food Pantry Program also home delivers food to about 15 or 20 homes where individuals can't get out. The volunteers making the deliveries try to determine what people like, says Don Spence. He says volunteers from the Keating Center now accompany the mostly elderly volunteers who deliver food to about 15 or 20 people who can't make it out from their homes. Don Spence says there are too many steps to climb for many of the volunteers who are getting up in years, so the guys from the Keating Center, help with the deliveries.

Arlene says, "The Keating Center

has been a blessing. Fr. Don Snyder (pastor at St. Ladislav) has been good to them. We always bring them donations of clothing and other household items. One hand washes the other."

She says a core group of about eight people come all the time to help with the community meal and the food pantry. Other volunteers help when they can. While admitting that "Don organized all this, and me with him," Arlene Spence praised all the many the volunteers involved with the program and all the generous people from both St. Ladislav and St. Ignatius Parish saying, "without the volunteers, we would be nothing."

Don Spence says the Share-A-Meal Program, in addition to the adult volunteers, now has about 25 youths from the St. Ladislav Parish and St. Bernadette Parish youth programs. Don Spence says both guys and gals from the schools participate. He says the youth ministry coordinator, Amanda Naujoks, works with both parishes. He says the volunteer work is a good way for the young people to get to know each other better and people attending the meals enjoy seeing the young people. Members of the youth ministry groups act as servers bringing the trays to the tables. Don Spence says this is a "big help in avoiding spilled food." He says prior to the youth ministry's involvement, a lot of time was spent cleaning up the floor. He comments on the dedication of the young people, "Some come back from college and still want to serve."

Don and Arlene Spence hope to continue to improve the Church in the City programs. They would like to recruit the help of more volunteers, especially from St. Ignatius Parish. Don Spence says they can always use more large freezer units in which to store perishable food. He says the program could use another stove and oven. The need, he says if for a large commercial stove with eight burners and an oven. The ancient stoves and ovens they now share with the school cafeteria are often in need of repair, he says.

*Editor's note: For more information about the Church in the City programs, to volunteer or to make a donation contact St. Ignatius of Antioch Director of Development Judy Ghazoul Hilow at 251-0300 ext. 124.*

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, September 11, 2012; Food Pantry, St. Ignatius of Antioch School Cafeteria, Lorain Ave. at West Blvd; Volunteer Mary Ellen Sullivan of St. Ladislav Church in Westlake distributes milk.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, September 15, 2012; Merrick House Children's Village at the Tremont Arts and Cultural Festival in Lincoln Park: Joel Weintz, age 7 of Garfield Heights, tries out the fishing pole during his family's first visit to the annual festival in Tremont.

**SOUTH OF LORAIN**  
continued from page one

new business would be required to secure 41 parking spaces, plus one space for each employee. However, attendees at the meeting noted that the development would be built on the Hansa House's current parking

lot. Those 30 spaces are currently being leased in the evenings to Touch Supper Club. Neighborhood activists suggested that the new parking spaces needed for the establishment and the reduced spaces for Touch Supper Club would amount to close to 100 spaces. The possibility of leasing spaces

**TWDC Board President Henry Senyak resigns**

Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC) Board President Henry Senyak resigned from serving on the Board of Directors on August 19th, the day after the August TWDC Board of Directors meeting on August 18th when a number of board members walked out of the meeting. Senyak, elected as President by the general membership in January of this year, says in leaving the board, he will do his best to back the efforts of Executive Director Cory Riordan and the TWDC Board of Directors' new president, Susan Coy. Following Senyak's resignation, he responded to some questions from the *Plain Press* about his resignation and the future of Tremont West Development Corporation.

**Why did you resign from the position as President of Tremont West Development Corporation's Board of Directors?**

The main reason I resigned as President was the disrespect shown me by a handful of current board members. This was coupled with the fact that Community Development Corporations (CDCs) are just too political. Also, going to at least 10 meetings a month just for TWDC Board and Committees, and that was taking a toll on my health. Some board members failed to show up for their Committee assignments,

or just participated in one meeting a month. TWDC Board is a working Board and it is easy to get burned out. Every week you must be prepared for new challenges. TWDC should be the priority, not someone's social calendar to have cocktails at a specific time if a board meeting runs late.

**Was your activism an issue with fellow board members and funders?**

The TWDC membership knew when they elected me into office that I was an activist. I worked at 150% to get things done for the community of Tremont. Funders like Neighborhood Progress Inc (NPI) and Councilman Joe Cimperman wanted full control on how the organization is run, this was unacceptable in my eyes especially when the Councilman would start calling other Board members requesting influence. NPI tried to influence who we hired in January as our new Executive Director, and this caused disharmony on last years board for at least four months.

The code of regulations of TWDC state "The membership is the ultimate authority of the organization." Many TWDC members have felt Tremont has lost favor with the funders and the City Administration over the past several years. I was

providing significant pressure on issues our stakeholders felt were important. Tremont's roads are like minefields and our business owners are at a disadvantage with all the available money in grants and loans being provided to upstart businesses in Ohio City.

I was elected by the membership, I felt complete responsibility to them, they have invested everything into Tremont. Tremont is the premier success story and is the only neighborhood that has a sustainable renaissance over the past 20 years. My interest was bettering the community and not being a good political soldier waiting to get some type of City job as many others do in the CDC's world. I worked hard to get people together to solve issues, even people that were the worst critics of TWDC or some that did not support me. Tremont is like a full contact sport, no neighborhood can compare to its energy and the advocacy of its residents and business owners.

**What are some of the accomplishments you can site, during your term on the Board of Directors?**

I am very proud of my service over the past four years on the TWDC Board. We changed this organization and gave it back to the people. **The continued on page 7**

from St. Ignatius High School was mentioned. Residents were skeptical whether such an arrangement would fit with St. Ignatius High Schools long term plans for the area. They suggested that if a deal is made with St. Ignatius High School, a lease of at least 5 years should be obtained.

One resident wondered what the point was of granting a variance for another food and beer place saying the neighborhood was already over saturated with restaurants and breweries. He said, "It just feeds into the food and booze culture." Others wondered whether the restaurant would have items on the menu that were affordable.

Ohio City Inc Executive Director Eric Wobser sparked some discussion when he suggested that residents in areas north and south of Lorain could vote their streets to be permit parking only zones. For a \$15 or \$20 a year permit for each vehicle, they could restrict parking on their streets, he said.

One resident said it was unfair to have to pay for parking on his own

street. "That's unfair. Why do we have to pay for somebody else to make money?" he said.

Another resident suggested that a change in culture was needed. He noted one area food establishment that offered a 15% discount to those who came by bike or public transit. He suggested more effort to get people to bike, walk or use public transit. He expressed concern that St. Ignatius High School work to change the culture of the student body to get more students to see alternatives to driving to school.

Ward 3 Councilman Joe Cimperman said that efforts are underway in the neighborhood to increase the use of bicycles. He noted recently announced plans for bike lanes on Detroit Avenue and discussions about improving biking along Lorain Avenue.

In other matters Second District Commander Keith Sulzer gave a brief report. He noted a Second District fundraiser for Providence House raised over \$3,000 for baby showers. He urged residents to lock their cars, noting that it takes thieves

only seconds to steal a car. Sulzer urged residents with concerns about quality of life issues to call him at 216-623-5205 or email him at: ksulzer@city.cleveland.oh.us.

Providence House President and Chief Executive Officer Natalie Leek-Nelson gave an update on the new \$2.3 million dollar addition to their facilities on W. 30th street. She said that when the new building is completed this November, Providence House will be able to increase the number of children it serves at one time from 11 to 20. It will be able to increase the age range to newborn up to age sixteen (currently, it is newborn to age 6). Leek-Nelson says the crisis nursery serves children at high risk of abuse or neglect. She said Providence House allows parents to voluntarily leave their children in a safe environment while the parents get the services they need to help with chronic physical illness, mental health issues, or drug or alcohol abuse. Once the parent gets the help they need, ninety-nine percent of the children are reunited with a parent or family member. Leek-Nelson says Providence House saves Cuyahoga County about \$10 million a year in foster care costs. Leek-Nelson said she hoped to host a meeting of the block club in the new facility before the children move in.

The next meeting of the South of Lorain - Chatham/Monroe Block Club is scheduled for Tuesday, October 2nd at the Breen Center.

*Editor's Note: The Board of Zoning Appeals is scheduled to hear the Hansa House proposal on October 8th. Ohio City Inc is working with Hansa House to develop a new parking strategy to present to the South of Lorain Block Club at its October 2nd meeting.*

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# Fathers from all around the Cleveland Metropolitan School District show up for walk with their children

Ivan Salcedo had his second-grade son in tow as he walked last Thursday on a day he couldn't pass up.

No, Salcedo didn't walk his son to Louisa May Alcott School for the doughnuts and drinks that awaited him and other fathers. He was there with his son to support "Fathers Walk," a countywide initiative that shined a spotlight on fatherhood.

Committed to being a first-rate father, Salcedo said he understood the importance men like him play in the lives of children in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. He understood the importance, as did the hundreds of other fathers from the East and West side who took part in the walk.

Fathers matter, particularly in a boy's life.

"Boys always imitate what their fathers are like," Salcedo said. "I always believe, if you aren't there for your son, in the future, he may feel he shouldn't be there for his son."

However, Fathers Walk was deeper than a male-to-male bonding experience. The event was a reminder that fathers are central to a child's emotional and social development, said Eileen Mangan Stull, principal at Alcott.

"The whole purpose is to help the children to understand that their

fathers, their families and everybody else values their education," Stull said. "Everybody wants them to do their best."

Countless fathers echoed Stull's sentiments. They were willing to share their thoughts about being at their child's side.

"I had that growing up," said Lawrence Funckerburke, who walked his kindergartener to Alcott. "It's very important; it teaches structure. Mom can't do everything; you can't expect mom to do everything."

Ryan Head, who walked his kindergartener to school, said people can tell the difference in children who do have that male figure and those who don't. Head saluted his father's involvement in his life.

"It gave me something to look up to; it gave me something to respect," said Head, a teacher at Alcott. "I think there was a little bit of fear. I didn't want to screw up for my dad."

On the other side of Cleveland, fathers offered much of the same.

At Michael R. White School, Chris Harden Jr. sat at a table next to his father in the school's cafeteria. Harden Jr. had something he needed to tell him.

"I love you, dad," the son said.

Harden Sr. had spent the morning showing his son how much he loved

him. He knew the walk encouraged men – fathers, grandfathers, uncles, male friends of the family, stepfathers, big brothers and nephews -- to actively participate in a child's life.

Harden Sr. embraced his participation. "It's very important because there are a lot of kids who don't have male-role figures in their lives," he said. "You can tell the difference."

Indeed, you can. Research has shown that fathers who take an active role in their children's education see their sons and daughters produce better grades, score higher on achievement tests, enjoy school more, graduate on time and then go on to college.

Fathers Walk promoted paternal involvement.

"Men look at things differently than women," Stull said. "So sometimes you need to have that different perspective."

So here at her school on Baltic Road were dozens of fathers and father figures, all having made the walk on an autumn-like morning. Their walk was symbolic of a larger theme: caring.

"It really does work," Stull said, "because the children know that everybody is involved and checks on them."



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, September 1, 2012; St. John Cantius Tremont Polish Festival: St. John Cantius Church is open for tours during the festival. Pictured above the is the center of the altar of the church. The parish founded in April of 1898, began construction of the church in May of 1909. The first services were held in the church while it was still under construction in December of 1909.

## What about bars and restaurant growth in Tremont?

It is clear based on two recent proposals this year in Tremont that many feel we have reach a saturation point. Many existing operators even feel this is true and came out against a new proposal for Professor. You can only have so

many similar businesses competing without having businesses having negative impacts.

The unfettered development with the help of the City of Cleveland in Ohio City, which is within walking distance of Tremont, has affected some businesses already and they are seeing a significant drop in business.

## PARENT PLAN

continued from page one

Parent Voice into discussions and decision-making around education reform in Cleveland. We hope that parents, grandparents, and community members will use it to engage and mobilize their neighbors and other Clevelanders' around public education."

A parent introducing the report to the Board of Education asked Cleveland Metropolitan School District Chief Executive Officer to meet with parents in the middle of October to discuss the plan -- Gordon was given three dates to choose as possible meeting times. Some of the key elements sought in the plan are: parental voices in educational decision making before decisions are made; enabling teachers to build strong relationships with all children; supporting safe schools that allow children to learn at their best and engaging research-based curriculum.

The parent originated plan contrasts greatly with the corporate originated plan that came out of the Greater Cleveland Partnership and is being touted by Mayor Frank Jackson and the school district as The Cleveland Plan for Transforming Schools. For example, the Parent Plan calls for building long-term relationships with teachers and school communities, and supports the importance of those relationships with educational research. It notes the value of stability in a teaching staff and the value of teachers that know the community and have built long-term relationships. The plan calls for heavy parent and community involvement in the schools and providing teachers and students with the resources they need to succeed and reach their full potential. In contrast, the Cleveland Plan for Transforming the Schools calls for evaluating teachers based on proficiency test scores and firing teachers that don't produce improved scores. It calls for closing schools where test scores don't improve and selling closed school buildings to charter schools.

The parent plan opposes continued emphasis on testing inherent in the corporate plan, and seeks instead a curriculum based on

best educational practices such as experiential based educational opportunities that include music and arts education.

Parents and community members wishing to learn more about *Speaking Out of School: Parent Voices on Public Education in Cleveland* can contact Ohio Communities United at 216-262-6343 and ask for Executive Director Mike Foley or Community Organizer Michael Cook. The staff can be reached by email at michael@ohunited.org or at mike@ohunited.org.

## CLEVELAND HOSTEL

continued from page one

TheClevelandHostel.com, accommodations in the hostel start at \$25 a night. Raymond says there are some private rooms with queen size beds and their own bathrooms. Other rooms are dorm style with bunk beds. In some of those rooms, there are private bathrooms and in others, the bathrooms are shared. Clean sheets and towels are also provided. The hostel has heat, air conditioning, a laundry room and various common areas.

Raymond says people arrive at the hostel by various means. There is a mix of people arriving by train, plane, bus and bicycle. About half the guests come by car. One guest flew in from Dayton in a private plane. Several cross country bicycle riders have stayed at the hostel -- one traveling from Minneapolis and another on a trip from Seattle to Boston.

In the future, Raymond hopes to have bike rentals for guests to help them get around town.

## SENYAK RESIGNS

continued from page 6

board is composed now of a lot of talent and energetic newer residents that understand they work for the membership. I will assist Sue Coy in her roll as President, she works very hard and is a very fair person. I will support TWDC as long as they keep to their new-found transparency and policies. Our new Executive Director is hands down, 100% better in working with the community than prior executive directors.

### What are some of the challenges TWDC faces?

1) TWDC needs to stay focused on their mission and work to better Tremont. Stay out of political matters or electioneering as many other near west CDC's are involved in with CDC employees hosting and running political fundraisers. Keep the membership involved especially in Ward 14.

2) To be influenced by the membership not NPI. NPI is providing funding for a consultant coach to provide influence to the Executive Director and the Board President. The Community is Tremont's best asset not influence or politics.

3) Councilman Cimperman has made it clear to me and other Board members that within the next two years that NPI wants to merge Tremont West with Ohio City Inc. and defund a CDC located in Tremont.

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| 5 LBS. CHICKEN TENDERS           | 1 LB. BEEF HOT DOGS    |
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