



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Wednesday, March 19, 2008, Community Forum concerning Adult Cabaret proposed for W. 25th and Meyer, held at Mega Church, 3170 Scranton Ave: Clark Metro Executive Director Maria Davila asks residents to express their opinions about the proposed “Adult Cabaret.” (See related story on page 3.)

FREE

Volume 35, Number 4

Presorted Standard
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CLEVELAND, OHIO
PERMIT 1354

April 2008

Plain Press

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR CLEVELAND'S WEST SIDE NEIGHBORHOODS

Civil Rights leaders call for justice for families of undocumented workers

by Joe Narkin

Local and national civil rights leaders called solidarity in action

among Latino, African-American, and other ethnic communities critical to the passage of a pending congressional



PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN

Thursday, February 28, 2008, Community Dialogue about Congressional Proposal to help 10 million working immigrants, Iglesia Hispana del Nazareno Nueva Luz, West 89th and Willard: Stanley Miller, Executive Director of the Cleveland Chapter of the NAACP delivers the opening address.

Testimony on El Tropical continues at Liquor Control Hearing

by Chuck Hoven

A number of residents and stakeholders concerned about problems caused by El Tropical in the area around W. 44th and Storer Avenue, went to an Ohio Liquor Control hearing at Cleveland City Hall on March 14th for a second round of testimony. Residents added to testimony given at the first part of the hearing on January 4, 2008.

Orindo Ventura, who lives across the street from the bar, testified about a shooting he witnessed a couple of weeks ago. He said a car pulled up into the parking lot at El Tropical and fired several shots. He said, “Every time the place is open the last four or five weeks, you hear guns going off.”

David Gayle, a resident of W. 45th

Street who recently moved to the neighborhood from California, said his wife was afraid walk in the neighborhood now. He said when she was walking past the bar some men loitering there tried to solicit sex from her. He said in the last two weeks they have heard gunshots twice.

Stephanie Gayle, testified that when she moved to the neighborhood from California she was told it was a good neighborhood. She said while pushing her baby in a stroller past El Tropical one evening several men standing in front of El Tropical stalked her asking her for sex. Her illusions about the neighborhood being safe were shattered when she heard gunshots twice in one day and was told by the clerk at the

proposal to grant temporary, renewable 5-year visas to people living and working in the United States as undocumented immigrants who are parents to an estimated 5 million minor children who are U.S. citizens. This call for justice in immigration reform came at a community dialogue, with 30 local residents in attendance, on February 28th at Iglesia Hispana del Nazareno Nueva Luz on W. 89th and Willard. The Latina Action Committee of Ohio sponsored the dialogue.

Stanley Miller, Executive Director of the Cleveland Chapter of the NAACP, stated in his opening address that, in order to assure justice and family unity for undocumented workers and their citizen children, it is essential to bring together “tolerant people to bring out the best in each other, rather that destroy each other.”

In issuing a call for cooperative action in seeking just immigration reform, Miller cited the critical role that white citizens, particularly Jewish Americans, played in the creation of the NAACP in 1909 and the success of the 20th century civil rights movement. He said it was a setback for civil rights and social unity when, under the influence of the Black Power movement in 1965, Jewish supporters “were told to step aside, that they were not needed.” Subsequent speakers at the forum reinforced Miller’s commitment to solidarity in addressing the issue of undocumented workers.

Emma Lozano, Executive Director of Centro Sin Fronteras in Chicago,

spoke of her brother, Rudy Lozano, who, as a field organizer for the old International Ladies Garment Workers Union, was highly influential in uniting Chicago’s Puerto Rican and Mexican communities behind the mayoral candidacy of Harold Washington, who became the first and only African-American mayor of Chicago. Mayor Washington’s first executive order upon taking office in 1983 declared that the City of Chicago would not provide assistance to U.S. authorities in enforcing immigration laws. The power of this new coalition, Lozano believes, led to the cold-blooded murder of Rudy in his home on June 8, 1983.

Rev. Walter Coleman, Pastor of the Adalberto United Methodist Church in Chicago, expressed the belief that, as a basic civil rights issue, “the way that the African-American community deals with this issue determines the soul of the African-American community.”

Lozano and Coleman encouraged strong action in support of a new legislative initiative sponsored by

members of the U.S. Congressional Hispanic Caucus that would allow undocumented workers with children who are U.S. citizens to stay together by giving them temporary legal status and protect them from raids, firings, arrests, deportations, and other enforcement actions.

In 2007, the Hispanic Congressional Caucus blocked a congressional measure that sought to issue an increased number of new temporary visas for seasonal and skilled workers because it did not provide legal protections for undocumented immigrants already working in the United States. The new proposal submitted by the Caucus offers a counterproposal that will provide broader protections for undocumented workers while meeting a strong economic need for immigrant labor in the United States. Both Lozano and Coleman referred to the proposed legislation as a temporary solution to “stop the terror” against undocumented workers and provide

continued on page 6

Near West Theatre plans for new facility

by Chuck Hoven

At a March 13th meeting in the atrium of the Gordon Square Arcade, Near West Theatre supporters and Detroit Shoreway residents had the opportunity to take the first public look at plans for the proposed new home for Near West Theatre at W. 67th and Detroit Avenue.

An architect from the firm of Richard Fleishman Partners Architects showed plans for the new theatre educational complex which will be located on W. 67th just behind the old Lou’s Furniture building. The new theatre’s plans call for a large lobby, spacious seating, an elevator, air conditioning, heating and will be designed with acoustics appropriate for a theater setting. The concrete block building will be vibrantly painted, have metal paneling and exterior lighting.

Plans call for creating a green space on the corner of W. 67th and Detroit that will serve as an entryway to the theatre from Detroit Avenue. The building that now houses SP Leather will be demolished to make way for the green-space. Plans call for Cleveland Public Art to help design the green space on the corner.

Funds to pay for the new theatre building are being raised by the Gordon Square Arts District, an economic development partnership formed by Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, Near West Theatre and Cleveland Public Theatre to raise millions of dollars in capital for major arts projects in the area. Stephanie Morrison Hrbek of Near West Theatre stressed to

continued on page 5

Years of efforts by activists lead to union construction jobs for Max Hayes students

by Chuck Hoven

For many years, Don and Norma Freeman have attended Cleveland Municipal School Board meetings and Bond Accountability Committee meetings pressing the school district to use the 2001 bond issue as leverage to gain access to union jobs in the construction industry for Cleveland Public School students.

Their efforts may finally be paying off for students in the construction program at Max Hayes High School, the only school in the district to offer a program in the construction trades. Ironically, the access to union jobs will not come through the large school district construction program but through another large construction program planned by University Hospitals called

Vision 2010.

At the March 18th Meeting of the Cleveland Municipal School District, Margaret Hewitt, Vice President of Construction Services at University Hospitals and Loree Soggs, Executive Director of the Cleveland Building and Construction Trades Council announced that, over the next two school years, University Hospitals will provide funds so Max Hayes graduates from its construction program can enter the eight week Union Construction Industry Partnership Apprenticeship Skills Achievement Program (USIP-ASAP). University Hospital has agreed not only to pay the \$6,000 tuition for each student, but also agreed to pay students \$10 per hour while they attend the eight

continued on page 5



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, March 22, 2008, Fire Station 21, 1801 Carter Road (at the end of Scranton Road): The sign indicates that Fire Station 21 is closed on this Saturday before Easter. Station 21 has been closed for most of this year. The station is browned out any day the citywide staffing of fire fighters is below 187. On March 25th the Fire Fighters Union Local 93’s website www.iafflocal93.org indicated that the station had been closed for 65 of the last 82 days. (See related letter to the editor on page 3.)

ANNUAL MEETING
CLARK METRO DEV CORP: CMDC Annual Meeting will be held Monday, April 21 at 6 pm at the Lin Omni Center, 3167 Fulton Road.

ARTS
ST. ROCCO STUDENT ART SHOW Sunday, April 20th from 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. at St. Rocco School, 3205 Fulton Road. For more information call 961-8557.

CONSUMER
TV CONVERTER BOX FREE COUPONS: Every U.S. household is eligible to receive up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, toward the purchase of eligible digital-to-analog converter boxes, enabling existing analog TVs to still operate after required digital conversion in Feb 2009. More information on the Digital-to- Analog Converter Box Coupon Program is available at www.dtv2009.gov or by calling 1-888-388-2009 (voice) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY). Further information on the digital transition is available at www.dtv.gov or by calling 1-888-CALL-FCC.

EDUCATION
DETROIT SHOREWAY ORAL HISTORY video of a diverse group of residents talking about their experiences in the Detroit



Cleveland State University, Cleveland State University School of Communication, and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation sponsor the Plain Press Community Board.

Shoreway neighborhood is available on <http://www.divshare.com/download/3923449-71a>. It is a project of CSU's Urban History Department, Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, and local artist Ryan Weitzel. For information, contact Nelson Beckford at 961-4242 ext.226 or nbeckford@dscdo.org
YOUTH COOKING CLASS: Food Chain Youth Cooking Class, a free, 8-week cooking class for 9-16-year-olds, will be held Wednesday afternoons at C-Space Community Center, W.44th and

Clark. Learn about cooking and nutrition from local chefs. Call Josh Ehrlich at 216-631-2233 or email foodchain@clevelandspace.org. Class registration form available at C-Space or <http://www.clevelandspace.org/foodchain>.
FREE TAX PREPARATION TAX DEADLINE SUPER SATURDAY: To facilitate service to last minute filers, the County is sponsoring a "Tax Deadline Super Saturday," free tax preparation session on Saturday, April 12th from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM at the Virgil E. Brown Building, 1641 Payne Avenue in the Career Center. Make sure you receive your Economic Stimulus Tax Rebate by filing your 2007 tax. We'll also make sure you claim the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit if you're eligible. An appointment is not needed; the session will be walk-in only.
OPERATION CPA: Military personnel who are Ohio residents currently deployed outside of the state qualify for free tax return preparation by local CPAs. Information about special tax breaks and programs for military also provided. Military personnel or family members may call The Ohio Society of CPAs toll-free at 888.959.1212 or e-mail cpanswers@ohio-cpa.com.

FORUMS
STOCKYARD NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM on Wed. evening, April 2

will feature presentation by the non-profit WECOFund's Esther Holtwick on "You and Your Credit" at 7 p.m. at VFW Post 2850, 3296 W. 61st Street. If the Cleveland Metropolitan School District is closed due to inclement weather, the Forum meeting will be cancelled. For info, contact Megan Meister, megan@stockyardredevelopment.org or 216-961-7687, ext. 202.

HEALTH
OHIO PATIENTS RIGHTS MEETING: a free public information meeting on hospital patients' right to complain will be held Monday, April 14 at 5 p.m. at the downtown Cleveland Public Library, 325 Superior Avenue, Room 218, Stokes Wing. For information call 216-221-2724.

HOUSING
GREEN COTTAGES: Learn about homeownership opportunities of the non-profit Cuyahoga Community Land Trust (CCLT), and the new Green Cottages development of accessible, affordable, and extra-energy efficient single family homes in Cleveland's Eco-Village. A Land Trust Orientation will be held on Saturday afternoon, April 19th, then repeated on Tuesday evening, April 29th, at CCLT, 4100 Franklin Blvd. Contact 216-334-1620 or info@ccLandTrust.org for information or reservations.

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS CITYWORKS MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM program offers up to \$3,000 to community-based organizations for neighborhood improvement and community projects. Awardees will be responsible for matching contributions, which may be cash, volunteer labor, donated professional services, donated materials or supplies, and/or borrowed equipment. The Cityworks proposal deadline is 5 pm on April 25th. Interested individuals and groups can call 664-2045, or visit cleveland-oh.gov.

PUBLIC HEARING
LIQUOR COMMITTEE TASK FORCE will meet Tuesday, April 15, at 1 p.m. at Cleveland City Council,

Room 220. The meeting is open to the public. Residents, business owners, and permit holders are welcome to attend.

RECREATION
CLEVELAND METRO PARK URBAN EXPLORATIONS TOURS: **WEST SIDE MARKET** on Wednesday, April 23 at 10 a.m. Join Seasonal Naturalist Jo Woyma on a visit to the West Side Market. Registration required. For more information and to register call 206-1000.
CLEVELAND METRO PARK URBAN EXPLORATIONS TOURS: Riverside Cemetery, 3607 Pearl Road. Discover Cleveland through people who have lived and died in it. Join Historical Interpreter Doug Kusak for a 1.5-mile walking tour in this historic cemetery. Discuss gravestone art and the many cultures reflected in its decorated stones. Registration required. Call 206-1000 for details and to register.
CLEVELAND METROPARKS NORTH COAST NATURE FESTIVAL: Friday evening April 25th through Sunday April 27th. A variety of programs and activities for novice to experienced nature enthusiasts. Nature photographer Rod Planek will make presentations on Friday night at 7 and 9 p.m. Presentation by birder Kenn Kaufmann on Saturday at 7 p.m. Evening presentations are free. For information and a complete listing of speakers and activities, visit clevelandmetroparks.com or call 635-3200.

SPECIAL EVENTS
CIRCLE OF MASKS FESTIVAL at the Cleveland Museum of Art on Sunday afternoon, April 27, includes a free drop-in mask-making workshop and performance by the Cleveland School of the Arts Urban Dance Collective, as a kickoff to the 19th Annual Parade the Circle in June. For information, call 216-707-2483.
MIGRATION MANIA: ONWARD AND NORTHWARD at the Dike 14 Nature Preserve Gordon State Park area of Cleveland Lakefront State Park (E. 72nd and N. Marginal, Saturday, May 3 from 7:30 a.m. - Noon (Free family fun). Special hour long guided hikes at 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. Please arrive 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled walk. Self guided hikes the remainder of the morning.

VOLUNTEERS
CLEVELAND READS is seeking volunteer tutors to work with children or adults. Volunteer at one of over 100 sites in various locations around Cuyahoga County. Free training provided. Next training session is Thursday April 10, 5:30-8:30pm. Call Jennifer Frigolette at 216-436-2116 for information about volunteering.

WORKSHOPS
CATHOLICS COMING HOME, a 6-week lay-led group for Catholics in northeast Ohio who have been away from the church for years, will meet Thursday evenings from April 3 through May 8 at Assumption Church, 9183 Broadview Road, Broadview Hts. Call 440-526-1177 for information or to register.

Visit the Plain Press Website at:
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Spirituality, Values and Culture Class begins Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 5:30 PM and will be held for **five (5) consecutive Thursdays**.
Learn how to make **Dreamcatchers**. Dreamcatcher class begins **Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 5:30pm** and will run for **five (5) consecutive Tuesdays**.
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e-mail: plainpress@yahoo.com
Website: www.plainpress.org
Plain Press
© Established in 1971

Circulation: 21,000 copies. Published monthly.
Distribution area: Cuyahoga River west to W. 117, Lake Erie south to Denison Ave. Available free at over 500 locations.
Managing Editor: Charles E. Hoven; Editor: Deborah Rose Sadlon; Copy Editor: Doris Honsa;
Photographers: John Cartwright, Coriana Close, Alexander Hurst, and Billy Delfs;
Advertising Sales: Tom Sheehan; Graphic Artist: David Myers; Distribution: Ahmed Morad and Fern Zelinsky; Mailing: Teresa Calvo; Website developer: Jeff Sugalski
Board of Trustees: Keith Brown, David Gamble, Dr. Leo Jeffers, Ray Rentas, Helen K. Smith and Chris Warren.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Wednesday, March 19, 2008, Community Forum concerning Adult Cabaret proposed for W. 25th and Meyer, held at Mega Church, 3170 Scranton Ave: Henry Senyak passes on the microphone after sharing the some history of adult entertainment venues on W. 25th Street.

First District Police inaction frustrates resident

To the editor:

I read with amusement the article concerning Police Chief McGrath at the Cudell Improvement meeting (February *Plain Press*). It is my firm belief this man should immediately be referred to a mental health specialist and be tested for drug use. My reasoning being that he weaves a wonderful fairy tale, based on experiences I personally have had from his office (the 1st. Districts Commanders office), regular patrol officers and police dispatchers. I have had police dispatchers threaten me with arrest as I attempted to report a crime.

LETTER

I had a police dispatcher tell me one day, and I quote her: "What do you think we are, Miami Vice? We don't go out to arrest people that have warrants".

For 8 YEARS I kept trying to get the 1st. District Police to bust the crack dealers house on my street. I finally gave up after watching Cleveland Police take money from the druggies. And I am not the only resident that watched the officers take bribes and leave the area alone.

I called Police Dispatch, the 1st District, even sent numerous faxes DIRECTLY TO the 1st District Police Station with dates, times, descriptions of people and vehicles, license plate numbers, the hiding places, names and addresses of the drug runners that I knew (all children) to no avail. This house STILL, 14 years later, supplies crack to the 1st District.

I have been jumped and beaten by

continued on page 7

Proposed adult cabaret at W. 25th and Meyer draws opposition at neighborhood meeting

by Chuck Hoven

About sixty people attended a community meeting on March 19th at Mega Church on Scranton to discuss proposed plans to re-establish an adult cabaret at 3245 W. 25th (at W. 25th and Meyer at the site of the former Monroe's which burned down last November). The meeting, organized by Clark Metro Development Corporation, was designed to "get a true feel for what the community wanted," said Clark Metro Development Corporation board member Rebecca Kempton.

The vast majority of those signing into the meeting (39 people) also signed a petition in opposition to the proposed adult entertainment club. Five people indicated they were neutral. No one signed in to support the club. Only one

person at the meeting spoke in favor of the club.

Residents attending the meeting came from both the Clark Metro and Tremont neighborhoods. Meeting organizers said Tremont West Development Corporation was invited to co-sponsor the meeting, but declined, choosing instead to include the issue on the agenda of its Metro North Block Club.

In opening the meeting, Clark Metro Executive Director Maria Davila, noted that representatives from the City of Cleveland Board of Zoning Appeals, the Building and Housing Department, Planning Commission, Community Development Department, Community Relations Department, the Law Department, and the Second Police District, had been invited to the meeting

to hear residents concerns and answer their questions. In addition Ward 14 Councilman Joe Santiago and nearby Ward 15 Councilman Brian Cummins were invited to the meeting. Davila noted that, of the city officials invited, only representatives of the Community Relations Department and the Second District Police chose to attend the meeting.

Early on questions were raised whether the adult entertainment at Monroe's was never legal in the first place. A resident asked, "Why were they allowed to stay open, when they were not a legal use?"

Clark Metro Board President Randy Buchko expressed regret that no city officials were on hand to respond to this

continued on pgae 4

Call for reaction to closing of Fire Station 21

To the Editor:

Open letter to Chris Garland, Executive Director Tremont West Development Corporation

LETTER

When I attended the Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC) Board Meeting, I was surprised that the critical safety and security FIRE issue would be placed in "committee" by board president Mr. Samuel Catania.

Leadership is a subject that I have instructed in every branch of the U.S. Military and an example that I used is "FIRE!" When "FIRE!" is discovered, in my opinion, it is NOT the time to submit the subject to a "committee," as Samuel Catania did at the TWDC Annual Meeting. DIRECTIVE Leadership Behavior is the only appropriate Leadership style to "immediately evacuate the area!" But what would I know?

"I'm just an old semi-retired guy living quietly on a pension."

"FOR EVERY ACTION – THERE IS EQUAL AND OPPOSITE REACTION!" –NEWTON. TREMONT'S FIRE STATION #21 BROWN OUT = THE ACTION

For full text of this letter visit the Plain Press web-site at www.plainpress.org



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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, March 19, 2008, Community Forum concerning Adult Cabaret proposed for W. 25th and Meyer, held at Mega Church, 3170 Scranton Ave: Cornell Odell says she would like to see a Computer Center for children at the site instead of an Adult Cabaret.

ADULT CABERET

continued from page 3

question. “We anticipated the city would

send some representatives so they could answer some of your concerns.”

Henry Senyak, a member of the Cleveland City Council Ad Hoc Liquor Committee Task Force, outlined a history of the adult businesses on

W. 25th Street. He noted a change in city law governing adult entertainment establishments occurred in 1989. He also outlined some history of the city’s inability to enforce that law. He noted that another adult entertainment venue on W. 25th Street was denied a variance for adult entertainment in the late 1990s. Its appeals in Common Pleas Court and at the 8th District Court of Appeals also failed. But despite this, the club continued to have adult entertainment at the site. Senyak attributed this to the city of Cleveland not having enough enforcement. He urged residents to call Mayor Frank Jackson and Councilman Joe Santiago and other Cleveland City

Council representatives to urge a review of adult businesses in the city.

The lone supporter of the club, a resident of Meyer Avenue, and a local business owner, said that when Monroe’s burned down it had been providing 65 jobs to the community. He said restaurants and carry outs in the neighborhood did business with the customers attracted to the neighborhood by Monroe’s. He contended that the City of Cleveland could not afford to lose the jobs created by Monroe’s. The drugs and prostitution in the neighborhood were due to economic conditions and had nothing to do with the adult entertainment establishments.

Another resident quickly disagreed with the contention that the adult entertainment establishments had no impact on drugs and prostitution. She said, “All those businesses give birth to these little side effects. If you do get rid of them it has to have an effect.”

Clark Metro Executive Director Davila, supported the resident’s contention by reading from the City of Cleveland legislation establishing an adult entertainment zone in the flats noting, “the city of Cleveland recognizes the negative secondary effects of adult entertainment – right in the codified ordinances.”

A young woman spoke against the concept of a strip club as an economic development tool for the neighborhood. She asked that something to help kids like a recreation center be built instead. She said a strip club did not provide the kind of role models young women in the neighborhood should aspire to emulate. How will this set an example to young people? She advocated economic development that will lead to “education and a career and help make life better.”

Another resident wondered how such development fit into the W. 25th plan paid for by Clark Metro. “Didn’t it call for more family oriented development?”

A 2007 graduate of Lincoln West High School, who lives right behind the site of the former Monroe’s, said that the absence of the club on the corner has been plus for the neighborhood. He said when the club was open “it had only a negative effect.”

A pastor of a church located within a 100 feet of the proposed club noted some of the social services provided by the church and said of the proposed club, “In this community we don’t need it.”

A resident of Poe and Fulton urged residents of the neighborhood around Meyer and W. 25th to go to their councilperson and don’t back down from the fight to prevent the establishment from locating in the neighborhood. She described walking by a similar establishment while pregnant and being pushed into the street and almost killed by a patron of an establishment that was on the site of what is now the Fulton Branch Library.

A resident of the Old Brooklyn neighborhood noted that neighborhood just successfully prevented another nightclub from opening. The club withdrew its application for a variance in the face of overwhelming neighborhood opposition, which included a petition with over 250 signatures, he testified. He said, “We do not need these types of establishments in the city until we rebuild our schools. This is not economic development at all.”

A Scranton Avenue resident asked what the plan and the vision for W. 25th Street was. He said he keeps hearing about the W. 25th Street plan but has never seen a copy. He wondered why the neighborhood and councilperson didn’t oppose Monroe’s when it first opened.

A long time resident responded, “when Monroe’s opened we okayed it as a restaurant. It changed over the years.”

Resident Cornell Odell said the site would be “a great place for a computer lab.”

A representative from the staff of the Cleveland Board of Education offered the opposition of the Board of Education to the proposed club. He noted the Lincoln West High School Principal had “expressed his concern” about the proposed site, but could not be in attendance at the meeting.

At the closing of the meeting Clark Metro Executive Director Maria Davila reminded residents that the Board of Zoning Appeals hearing on the proposed adult cabaret was scheduled for April 21st at 10:30 a.m. on the 5th floor of Cleveland City Hall. At the urging of neighborhood residents representatives two neighborhood churches in attendance at the meeting offered vans for transporting residents to the hearing. To sign up for a ride to the Board of Zoning Appeals hearing, residents can call Clark Metro Development Corporation at 741-9500.

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MAX HAYES

continued from page one

week program, said Soggs. Graduates of the program are guaranteed an apprenticeship in one of 15 construction trade unions in the partnership.

When it became clear that the Board of Education had decided students would enter the UCIP-ASAP program, Don Freeman insisted that they be paid during their pre-apprenticeship. According to a source at UCIP-ASAP, the lack of a stipend during the 8-week program has presented a hardship for many adults trying to complete the program. A Max Hayes official involved in the apprenticeship program expressed a similar

NEAR WEST THEATRE

continued from page one

those attending the importance of the Gordon Square Arts District in raising capital that Near West Theatre could not have raised on its own.

Hrbek said operating the new theatre would mean a major increase in operating costs for Near West Theatre. She said that a review of similar sized theatres revealed an operating cost of \$150,000 a year. Currently the rent paid for the use of the theatre space at St. Pat's and the office space in the Gordon Square Arcade runs about \$13,000 per year.

Detroit Shoreway Executive Director Jeff Ramsey said rents from the first floor commercial space in the former Lou's Furniture building would be dedicated to Near West Theatre to help defray their operating costs. He estimated that the commercial space would raise between \$40,000 to \$50,000 per year. He said that green-building techniques used in the theatre will help to reduce the energy costs, thus further lowering the operating costs for the theatre. Hrbek said having its own space would allow the theatre to run plays for a longer time and to have the facility for year round shows, thus increasing revenue.

The new theatre will have about 250 seats. The space at St. Patrick's Church Hall currently allows for 200-230 seats, says Hrbek.

While there will be a small parking lot behind the theatre building, additional parking will be available in the Gordon Square Arcade parking lot across the street. Negotiations are also underway to allow use of Pioneer Sav-

concern as to whether students would complete the program without some kind financial stipend.

The University Hospital program also will give students that graduate from the program shots at jobs in the Vision 2010 construction program or in other hospital construction projects, said Hewitt. This is important because while students will graduate into apprenticeships in one of the fifteen construction unions in the partnership, it can take years for apprentices to obtain journeyman status. The number of hours on jobs is a critical determining factor as to when an apprentice can graduate to journeyman status and receive the higher pay scale that accompanies that status.

ing parking lot across Detroit Avenue
from the Theatre.

Councilman Matt Zone says an effort is underway to create a Business Improvement District along Detroit Avenue in the area around the theatres where businesses will pay a voluntary assessment in order to provide additional amenities for the district such as additional security and lighting. Zone said he believes that the addition of more businesses to the commercial strip have added more eyes on the street at night adding to the increased safety of the neighborhood.

Plans call for construction to begin on the new Near West Theatre complex in 2010 and for a completion date sometime in 2011. Hrbek noted that Near West Theatre began planning for a new



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, March 22, 2008, The Matinée, 2527 W. 25th at Potter Court: This newly opened nightclub, The Matinée, was hit by an automobile on Friday, March 25th. A former owner of the building, Ralph Gordon, spent years petitioning the City of Cleveland and Ward 14 City Council representatives to place a guard rail in front of the building because his motor cycle repair shop was repeatedly hit by vehicles. A guardrail was finally placed in front of the building, but now seems to have disappeared. While there are still metal poles in front of the building, a nearly 12-foot gap in front of the door allowed a vehicle to hit the building.

home in 1999, and the design process began in 2005. She promised additional public meetings as the opening of the new facility approaches.

Another major undertaking of the Gordon Square Arts District, the restoration of the Capital Theatre on W. 65th is expected to begin in May of this year.

and is slated for completion by June of 2009. Plans call for a three-screen movie theatre that will feature art and independent films.

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March 30	Cross Veneration St. Basil Div. Liturgy.....	8:00 AM
April 06	St. John Clamatus Sunday St. Basil Div. Liturgy.....	8:00 AM
April 13	St. Mary of Egypt Sunday St. Basil Div. Liturgy.....	8:00 AM
April 20	Palm Sunday St. John Chrysostom Div. Liturgy	8:00 AM
	Bridegroom service	4:30 PM
April 21	Holy & Great Monday Presanctified Div. Liturgy	10:00 AM
	Bridegroom service	4:30 PM
April 22	Holy & Great Tuesday Presanctified Div. Liturgy	10:00 AM
	Bridegroom service	4:30 PM
April 23	Holy & Great Wednesday Presanctified Div. Liturgy	
	GREAT MARTYR GEORGE.....	10:00 AM
	The Sacrament of Holy OIL.....	4:30 PM
April 24	Holy & Great Thursday St. Basil Div. Liturgy.....	10:00 AM
	12 Passion Gospels	7:00 PM
April 25	Holy & Great Friday The Royals Hours.....	10:00 AM
	PROCESSION WITH THE HOLY CROSS.....	4:00 PM
April 26	Holy & Great Saturday St. Basil Div. Liturgy.....	10:00 AM
	HOLY PASHA.....	11:30 PM
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PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN
Thursday, February 28, 2008, Community Dialogue about Congressional Proposal to help 10 million working immigrants, Iglesia Hispana del Nazareno Nueva Luz, West 89th and Willard: Rev. Walter Coleman, Pastor of the Adalberto United Methodist Church in Chicago, speaks to the group about the civil rights of immigrants.

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CIVIL RIGHTS

continued from page one

“five years of peace” as a preliminary step in the creation of a permanent, fair, equitable, and family-friendly immigration policy.

In 2006, Lozano and Coleman took the lead in providing church sanctuary for Elvira Arellano, and her 7-year old son, Saul. Arellano, who illegally crossed into the United States from Mexico in 1997, faced arrest and deportation following her firing as a cleaning person at O’Hare International Airport for using a false Social Security number under an employer-initiated review mandated by the U.S. Homeland Security Act. The firing and subsequent governmental action against Arellano represented an intentional misuse of an act passed by Congress for the sole purpose of identifying terrorist activity in the United States, said Lozano and Coleman. The Arellano case resulted in widespread international press coverage and, according to Lozano, the “largest mass mobilization in U.S. history to keep families together.”

Although legal scholars agree that there are no provisions for church sanctuary under U.S. law, government authorities made no attempt to enter the Adalberto United Methodist Church and arrest Arellano during her year in residency, despite threats to do so.

Arellano voluntarily left her sanctuary at Adalberto Church to travel to Los Angeles on August 15, 2007 in order to challenge Democratic leadership to stop the separation of the families of undocumented families and to speak in churches. In L.A., she was arrested by heavily armed immigration officials and was subsequently

deported, accompanied by her son, to Mexico. Since her deportation, Arellano continues to be a vocal supporter, through correspondence to the United States and speeches in Mexico, for U.S. immigration reform and she has spearheaded the development of sanctuaries in Mexico to serve immigrants recently deported from the U.S. and for migrants traveling to the U.S.A. through Mexico from Central and South America. Her sanctuary experience in Chicago has inspired the creation of other church sanctuaries throughout the United States, most notably in Los Angeles.

According to Lozano, under NAFTA the governments of the United States, Canada, and Mexico “formed an agreement that forced people to cross borders because of an economic crisis that does not allow their families to survive.” These people are “heroes, not criminals” and women such as Elvira Arellano “will walk through fire and face the dragon to protect their children,” said Lozano.

The anti-immigration sentiment evident in current federal laws and policies have begun to filter down to local and state levels throughout the nation, said Lozano. An example is Waukegan, Illinois, where the local police department has been using routine traffic stops as an opportunity to initiate the deportation process against illegal immigrants. Lozano views the State of Arizona as a “laboratory of racism” due to the creation of local border militias, as well as efforts to legally refuse a birth certificate to any child born to illegal immigrants and to make it illegal for a citizen to marry an illegal non-citizen in Arizona.

Emma Lozano sees the current anti-immigrant sentiment as a “racist campaign of hate, particularly against the Mexican people” that should be of special concern for all Latinos and other “brown and black people.” Lozano said that the government is “not building

a wall on the northern border at Canada, but along the southern border at Mexico.” Rev. Coleman called the current administration’s plans to deport 12,000 to 13,000 undocumented immigrants on an annual basis a “brutal, visible, and public spectacle” that is designed to produce “disempowerment and intimidation” of minority people and their supporters.

“We are not defending the system of undocumented labor; we hate the system of undocumented labor,” said Coleman, adding that, “If you want to protect the border, you do not build a wall, you create fair trade.” Since the passage of the NAFTA Trade Agreement, 13 million jobs have been lost in agricultural areas of Mexico as the U.S. dumped corn and other agricultural products into Mexico and controlled prices, stated Coleman, with similar effects on agricultural economies throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Coleman believes that it is easier to address the issue of undocumented workers through churches committed to social justice “than anywhere else,” noting that there are 16,000 Latino churches in the United States and that an estimated 20% of the pastors and 40% of the congregation of Latino churches are undocumented immigrants.

Dr. Felix Muniz, Pastor of the Iglesia Hispana del Nazareno Nueva Luz in Cleveland, concluded the community dialogue by declaring that the current anti-immigrant climate is proof that the United States “is the promised land to some, but not to others” and represents a “call for courageous action on the part of the church.” Nueva Luz Church and the Latin Action Committee in Cleveland will be organizing local participation in a nationwide Rainbow Rally in support of justice for undocumented workers and their families on May 1st. For additional information call Dr. Muniz at (216) 651-1128.

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FIRST DISTRICT

continued from page 3

these druggies. Police REFUSED to take a homeowner’s word, disregarded the blood pouring from me, and told the “boys”, i.e. the drugs dealers that were paying them off, to go home for a little while and be “good boys”. Yeah, like I am stupid enough to accost 10 teenagers I KNOW carry guns.

My vehicles and home were constantly vandalized. Police did not/do not care. IF you could get a police car, the officers 9 times out of ten refused to even exit their vehicles. This was, and IS Elton Ave. between West 73rd. and West 81st.

My family finally moved. We found a small house on Hague Ave. Same story. Police refusing to come out and bust the bad guy. It took me that 3 years and around \$5,000 worth of damage to my property for the Police to FINALLY bust 2 people. CHILDREN !!!!!

Add another year of having to go to “Kiddie Court”, lost wages, parking fee’s etc. and lo and behold the kids received PROBATION and had to pay me back a whole \$250. Hmmm, lemme see here, I am out 5 grand, get

back 250 dollars, Where the hell is my other \$4,750?

We had enough there, moved to West 87th. Different street, STILL worthless 1st District Police. Now we have right next door to us a house that has been in this order: A crack and pot supplier; Prostitutes working out of the house; Thieves that were, maybe still are, tearing the aluminum siding and gutters off homes ; and scrappers (check out our missing down spouts that were found hidden in their yard that police said they were just "protecting" my property") Awful damn funny those down spouts required no protection while still attached to the house.

Thieves and vandals also violated our flower and vegetable gardens. I am sorry Mr. Police Officer, you may try to blow smoke up my posterior end, but human urine and fecal material are NOT considered fertilizer for my roses and vegetables under ANY circumstances. NO, tomato plants DO NOT "go the way of the lemmings" and commit vegetable suicide, uproot themselves and throw their little tomato plant roots and fruit up on the porch. (I actually had a 1st District Officer tell me this.)

Drunks and just plain pigs threw their trash all over the street. This house is so

nasty the driveway would look like it was moving in the summer as the hordes of cockroaches encompassed it.

HELLO Orkin man !!!! Now we pay \$500.00 BESIDES house payments to keep the damn bugs out of OUR place.

Building or Health Inspector? I have a better chance of the Pope stopping by for dinner. There are windows that are missing for 18 months now in that house. The driveway is collapsing along the foundation. There has been and is a nice little pile of abandoned car tires in the yard. Not to mention the broken glass and junk. Garbage cans that have only seen a lid on the day of manufacture, IF they are even used once every 3 months and not blowing all over.

This was last summer and winter. NOW the house has the back of it abandoned and vandalized. (Was a 2 family converted to 3 apartments?) The walls are knocked out and plumbing stolen. Broken and all winter long windows left open. The people that were the original "renters" are gone, now it is full of squatters that are selling drugs and have prostitutes there again.

And I am sorry Mr. Jay Westbrook, (Yes of course I have called his office about this house, so has about 1/2 the street). 15 to 30 new cars a day pulling in and out of the yard for 30 to 60 seconds OR the 20 minute "regulars" does NOT mean they "have a lot of friends"

If that is what you believe Mr. Westbrook, and Mr. Police Officer, why don't YOU move in next door to them and deal with the cars, boom-boom radios at 1,2,3,4,5,6,a.m., and the stench?

Hey Mister Police Chief, why the hell could I not get a Police car to bust the drunk that had/has no drivers license, insurance and driving another persons truck that wrecked my van on June 21,2007 and arrest the guy and ticket him?

Why did on Sunday morning I go to the 1st District Police station at 9 am to make a report to have to wait over an hour as the Sergeant sat there reading the Sunday Plain Dealer and the officer at the desk played a hand held video game?

Why did on June 21st the Cleveland EMS, Fire Department and even a Cleveland RTA Policeman show up

at the accident and we could not get a Zone car?

And PLEASE do NOT try to placate me by stating there was a fatality at West 130th or 150th and EVERY SINGLE POLICE CAR IN THE CITY was sent there as your Dispatcher told me.

That was a 2 vehicle accident that occurred 3 HOURS before my accident, besides, “every” Police car? I think not.

Thanks to YOUR Police Department’s malfeasance and ineptitude my Insurance has now gone up \$25 a month or \$300 a year.

That is A LOT of money considering the taxes we pay already to be “Protected and Served”.

AND, now I am told I have to go downtown to pay for a copy of a Police report that was NEVER investigated!!!!!!!!!! That is WRONG! Who was protected here? Surely not myself or family. Who was served? Oh I was, I was served a Insurance Increase letter.

Do I expect to see this letter in print? Not really. I would HOPE someone would FINALLY hold the Police accountable for their actions. Keep in mind I am only one little voice in this City. Also keep in mind it is little voices like mine that VOTE and have a LONG memory.

Edward J. Maltba

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EL TROPICAL

continued from page one

said, “I can’t go to sleep on Friday and Saturday nights because of all the noise.” He said Second District police are so busy on Friday and Saturday nights that they don’t respond to complaints of noise.

Gerald Guthrie, now an Old Brooklyn resident, said he moved from his residence across W. 44th Street from the bar about two years ago after two gunshots hit his house. He also testified about noise from the bar and offered the opinion that El Tropical was too big for the neighborhood it was located in.

The attorney for El Tropical explained to the State Liquor Control officer hearing testimony via video that Carmello Colón would be testifying on behalf of El Tropical. The attorney explained that Carmello Colón, as manager of the bar is more knowledgeable about the day-to-day operations than his brother Heriberto Colón, who was not in attendance at the hearing.

City of Cleveland Attorney Sue Bungard questioned El Tropical manager Carmello Colón about a reference made to him in the Plain Press as owner and manager of the bar. Colón said, “I am the manager, I never said I was the owner.” Under further questioning, he said, “I own the building, but not the liquor license.”

Bungard, then asked Carmello Colón about a number of felonies listed under his name in Court records. Colón admitted to convictions on two of the

felonies.

Bungard asked about the possibility of installing metal detectors in the bar. Colón said patrons were searched by hand. He said maybe the money would be available in the future for metal detectors. When asked about the average crowd and gross income on an average Friday night, Colón said about 120 people came on an average Friday night. There is no cover charge. The gross income before expenses on a Friday night he estimated at \$1,500.

Colón admitted to a statement made to the Plain Press in which he referred to the bar as his “livelihood.” Under further questioning by Bungard, Colón admitted that he pays the bills and signs checks for the bar. Bungard asked who else could sign checks for the bar, and Colón, who often refers to himself as Junior, said his girlfriend and brother were also in the corporation too and could sign checks. He said the corporation was Junior, Inc. and it owned the building, but not the liquor license. He said that his brother owns the liquor license.

In her statements at the Liquor Control Hearing, City of Cleveland Attorney Bungard seemed satisfied that she had shown that Colón was in fact acting like the owner of El Tropical and as a convicted felon was prohibited by Ohio law from owning such an establishment.

The attorney for El Tropical tried to show that a number of the complaints such as traffic tickets, and gunshots heard in the neighborhood could not be specifically be tied to El Tropical. He also questioned whether the nightclub should be held accountable for actions

outside of the club. He cited lack of police response as a problem in the neighborhood. He noted that in video supplied by resident Rowena Ventura, she says at one point “call the police.” He said he viewed at least ten more minutes of video that followed that call and no police showed up. The attorney also questioned whether the bar was even open when Stephanie Gayle walked past with her baby. He speculated that those harassing her could have been unassociated with the bar. He said, “You can’t hold a single business responsible for everything that happens in the neighborhood.”

The attorney also noted that Ward 14 Councilman Joe Santiago had testified in January that the City of Cleveland had entered into a cooperative agreement with this establishment. The attorney claimed that Santiago testified that he hadn’t had recent complaints and that Councilman Santiago said, “The issues were resolved.”

After hearing the testimony, the hearing officer said he would pass on his recommendation to the person in Columbus who would make the decision on whether or not to renew the liquor license for El Tropical. He said that the process may take two to three weeks and that the City of Cleveland and Heriberto Colón would be informed of the decision.

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Better Than Wings!

\$10.00

We Accept Credit, Debit and the Ohio Direction Card

MAIN PLANT

HOURS: Mon. thru Fri. 8 - 2, Sat. 8 - 12

7106 Lorain Avenue

(Between W.65th & W. 73rd)

961-3435



Our Convenient West Side Location