



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, April 20, 2008, St. Rocco Student Art Show, St. Rocco School, 3205 Fulton Road: Cat in the Hat Hats designed and made by first grade students in art teacher Christine Siarka's class.

**FREE**

Volume 35, Number 5

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

May 2008

# Plain Press

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR CLEVELAND'S WEST SIDE NEIGHBORHOODS

## Meetings scheduled to plan Greenway for Train Avenue

by Chuck Hoven

The second in a series of three public meetings on creating a greenway along Train Avenue will be held at 7 p.m. on May 8<sup>th</sup> at Urban Community School. Planners hope to develop a bikeway and multipurpose trail that will connect five Near West Side neighborhoods (Stockyards, Clark Metro, Ohio City, Detroit Shoreway and Tremont) and link to the Towpath Trail and Canalway Corridor that will go through the Cleveland Industrial Flats to Lake Erie. Plans call for a connection to the Big Creek bikeways to the south as well. The results of the planning effort will be presented to the community at a third meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the West 58<sup>th</sup> Street Church of God (just South of Clark on W. 58<sup>th</sup>).

Al Brazynetz, Executive Director of the Stockyard Redevelopment Organization, part of a collaborative involved in the planning process, said the vision is of a "funky urban parkway with great views of bridges." He recalled some impressive urban vistas viewed from Train Avenue, saying the views are spectacular, especially at night.

At the first meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> at Zion United Church of Christ on W. 14<sup>th</sup>, Brazynetz said those in attendance learned some of the history of the area along Train Avenue -- from its beginnings as a path along a creek, called Walworth Run, through the creation of breweries, factories and the railroad, to its conversion into a large combined sewer and the creation of Train Avenue connecting Clark near W. 65<sup>th</sup> to Scranton Road.

The challenge for residents coming to the meeting is to help devise plans to transform Train Avenue from what is now a sewer and a dumping ground to a green parkway. Breakout sessions at the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will work on trail planning, traffic planning and safety, green space and recreational planning, land use along the route and placement of public art, directional signs and historic heritage markers along the trail.

Brazynetz says the goals of the collaborative are "to create an aesthetically pleasing greenway, re-establish Train Avenue as a community asset, promote alternatives to the auto by providing a route to pedestrians and cyclists, develop improved access to adjoining neighborhoods and community assets, and to create a regional recreational amenity centered on a multipurpose trail plan that will link into the City of Cleveland's Bikeway Master Plan."

While the idea of uncovering Walworth Run was looked at, it was dismissed because after heavy rains raw sewage flows through the combined sewer and into the Cuyahoga River. Instead planners hope to devise methods to help reduce the rainwater flow into the combined sewer to prevent the overflow and dumping of raw sewage into the river. Brazynetz said some ideas include creating rain gardens and bioswales to divert rainwater and retain it in the soil.

Brazynetz says the roughly two-mile stretch of Train Avenue currently is about 48% industrial, 43% green or open space and 9% residential. He says there are over a dozen schools located within a half mile of Train Avenue, which will provide opportunities to introduce students to use of the trail.



PHOTO BY JEFFREY SUGALSKI

Tuesday, April 22, 2008, Bicycle Tour of Industrial Valley and West Bank of the Flats, Jefferson Avenue just east of W. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Planners of the Train Avenue Greenway hope that someday an accessible multipurpose trail along Train Avenue will attract visitors and residents and allow them to enjoy similar urban vistas.

## Conflict continues at Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation MEDIATION IS PROPOSED AS A SOLUTION TO MISTRUST, MISCOMMUNICATION, AND MISUNDERSTANDING

by Joe Narkin

Dissenting and supporting members of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) failed to resolve their differences at a meeting attended by 150 concerned citizens and agency representatives on March 26, 2008 at the Gavin Lee Party Center on Broadview Road. Subsequently, OBCDC and representatives of three Community Associations in Old Brooklyn appear to be headed for mediation through the Cleveland Mediation Center in an attempt to develop a more cooperative working relationship.

Concerned that local community associations and organizational members were being "treated with a lack of courtesy and outright disrespect," by OBCDC, Darren Hamm, President of The Brooklyn Centre Community Association, facilitated a spirited, but ultimately inconclusive, three-hour discussion of issues. The South Hills Neighborhood Association and the Southwest Citizens Area Council joined the Brooklyn Centre Community Association in calling for this special meeting.

During the meeting, Hamm presented a resolution seeking the removal of three OBCDC Board Officers (Matt Reitz, Abe Bruckman, and Christina Kowalski) "for conduct that has under-

mined the public trust" and a vote of no confidence in Executive Director Robyn Sandys. Following discussion regarding whether the resolution would have legal effect under the OBCDC Code of Regulations and a failed motion to table the resolution pending the outcome of mediation, 114 OBCDC members voted on the resolution by secret ballot. The result was a 57 to 57 deadlock.

Hamm referred to the meeting as an "exercise in participatory democracy" and an attempt to "create a public space for public dialogue." He said, "No community has achieved anything without community spirit" and he asked, "What is a community development organization without community?" According to Hamm, the primary goal of dissenting OBCDC members in calling the meet-

ing and airing grievances was to negotiate a more significant role for grassroots members in serving the Old Brooklyn Community through OBCDC.

Matt Reitz, OBCDC Board President, in a letter distributed prior to the meeting, recognized that opponents were acting "with a desire for OBCDC to better manage community relations

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## State of Ohio refuses to renew El Tropical's liquor permit

by Chuck Hoven

Neighborhood residents, who provided testimony at two Ohio Division of Liquor Control hearings on the El Tropical Nightclub on Storer and W. 44th, received news in mid-April that the state refused to renew the liquor application for the club. "People in the neighborhood are just ecstatic," said local block club leader Rowena Ventura.

The State of Ohio Division of Liquor Control of the Ohio Department of Commerce issued the order denying the renewal of the liquor permit of El Tropical Night Club. The order, mailed on April 14<sup>th</sup> to Liquor Permit holder Heriberto Colon, cites evidence gathered at hearings held at Cleveland City Hall in January and March of this year along with information gathered from various documents and reports.

In its order, the Division of Liquor

Control cited a number of grounds and facts. First and foremost it noted "the place for which the permit is sought is so located with respect to the neighborhood that substantial interference with public decency, sobriety, peace, or good order result from the issuance of the permit and operation there under by the applicant."

The order further takes issue with the manner in which the operation has been run, stating, "the applicant has shown a disregard for the laws, regulations, or local ordinances of the State, and will operate the permit business in a manner that demonstrates a disregard for the laws, regulations, or local ordinances of the State."

Testimony from the community meetings held at City Hall in January and March of this year was referred to in issuing the order. "Complaints revolve

around the high number of gunshots heard in the neighborhood, typically two to three times per week, which are frequently attributed to the patrons of the premises. There have been shootings, stabbings, and fights in the area. There are also issues with trash in the yards of residents consisting of bottles, condoms, glass, beer cans, loud music, noise, traffic congestion when the premises closes on the weekends, and blocked driveways." The order also cited the numerous violation and citations made by police patrols assigned to the area around El Tropical on specific weekends.

The order indicated that The Division of Liquor Control was convinced Carmello Colon, a convicted felon, was in fact involved in the ownership of El Tropical, a violation of state law.

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PHOTO BY JOHN CARTWRIGHT

Sunday, April 20, 2008, Earth Day Coalition's Earthfest 2008, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo: In the Clean Transportation Area, Cleveland Metro Parks Zoo displayed this Daimler Chrysler electric car used as a security vehicle at the zoo.

**ARTS****STUDENTARTIST COMPETITION**

entries are being accepted through May 23 for the Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center juried art show for students in grades 1 through 12. Theme: "Rainbows on Earth: Our Wildflowers". Contact the Rocky River Nature Center at 440-734-6660 for an entry form. clevelandmetroparks.com.

**CITYMUSIC CLEVELAND** free concerts will be held at two locations:

Wednesday, May 7 at 7 p.m. at St. Vitus Church, 6019 Lausche (361-1444) and Saturday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus, 3649 E. 65<sup>th</sup> (341-9091). Families with children welcome; reservations for free child care can be made by calling the concert location. For more information, call 216-321-8273 or visit [www.CityMusicCleveland.org](http://www.CityMusicCleveland.org).

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**EDUCATION**

**CARNEGIE WEST LIBRARY CELEBRATION OF CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY LITERACY (El Dia de Los Ninos Dia de Los Libros)** on Saturday, May 3 from noon to 4 p.m. at Carnegie West Branch, Cleveland Public Library features a Pinata, Rainstick and Mask Making, Paper Flowers, Tortilla Making Demonstrations, Create Your Own Book, and more, sponsored by Merrick House and Cleveland Public Library. Call 623-6927 for more information.

**EVENTS**

**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND** activities of the Polish Legion of American Veterans include Memorial Mass on Sunday, May 25 at 11 a.m. at St John Cantius Church, Professor & College Ave. in Tremont, followed by a wreath laying ceremony behind the church and a brunch at Post 30 clubhouse, Starkweather & West 11<sup>th</sup>. All are invited. For information contact Terry Zacharyi at 216-224-1178.

**WARD 17 COMMUNITY CLEANUP** on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by the Ward 17 Forum Group. Kick Off Event at 9:30 a.m. at Zone Rec Center, W.65<sup>th</sup> and Lorain, followed by Site Cleanings from 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at four sites:

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**PUBLIC MEETING II** will be held Thursday evening, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7 p.m. at Urban Community School, 4909 Lorain Avenue. Come and be a part of the discussion about how this historic roadway can better serve to connect five West Side Cleveland neighborhoods & the Towpath Trail. Public Meeting III will be held Thursday evening, May 29, at 7 p.m. at the West 58<sup>th</sup> Street Church of God, 3150 W.58<sup>th</sup> Street.

**10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT FORUM** on what's happening in state government will be held Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. at Zion United Church of Christ, 2716 W.14th Street. Guest Speaker will be Marquez Brown of the Ohio Attorney General's Office. For more information contact the office of State Representative Eugene R. Miller, District 10, 614.466.7954 or [district10@ohr.state.oh.us](mailto:district10@ohr.state.oh.us).

**HEALTH**

**SAFE DISPOSAL OF MEDICATIONS:** The City of Cleveland will collect old medications and dispose of them safely at a medication round-up on Wednesday, May 7, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. at either of two locations: 3727 Ridge Road (south of Denison) and 5600 Carnegie Avenue (east of downtown) Drop off old, expired or unwanted medications. Bring medicine in its original container, placed in a clear plastic bag. For more complete information about disposing of unwanted medications, visit [www.clevelandhealth.org](http://www.clevelandhealth.org).

**AUTISM PROJECT FOCUS GROUP:** Parents, educators, health care workers, and direct service providers can participate in a free focus group on localized care for children with autism. Focus group meetings will be held Wednesday, May 7th and Thursday, May 8th, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Rammelkamp building of MetroHealth, 2500 MetroHealth Drive. To take part in the free focus group call or e-mail Dan Farkas at (614) 846-6258 or [dfarkas@ohioap.org](mailto:dfarkas@ohioap.org)

**RECOVERY INTERNATIONAL:** Free self-help and stress management group meets at Archwood United Church of Christ 2800 Archwood Ave. Cleveland every Friday evening at 7:45 p.m. Recovery offers help to those struggling with stress, tension, anxiety, panic, depression, anger, fears and other emotional problems. For more information, call 661-7966.

**HOUSING**

**UNITED CLEVELANDERS AGAINST POVERTY (UCAP)** will present a program on how to find affordable housing and obtain legal information on Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to

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The Webb Family would like to express its gratitude and thanks for all your support and donations during the time of tragic death of our son Matthew. The Ed and Barbara Webb Family

**Plain Press**

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Website: [www.plainpress.org](http://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 Jeffres, Ray Rentals, Helen K. Smith and Chris Warren.

# Clark Metro Development Corporation celebrates successes & perseverance

by Chuck Hoven

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, the Clark Metro Development Corporation held its second annual meeting since being denied federal Community Development Block Grant funds by the City of Cleveland. About twenty people attended the meeting held at the Lin Omni Center on Fulton Road. Board President Randy Buchko called the past year "a challenging year."

Buchko said the fact that "we are still here and still serving the community is a testament to the hard work of Maria (Executive Director Maria Davila) and her staff." Buchko noted that Davila is now working without pay as a volunteer director while seeking additional funding for the organization. Buchko praised her dedication and said he felt the Board of Trustees had made an excellent decision in hiring her.

Executive Director Davila introduced her staff, Administrative Assistant and Community Organizer Dianaly Martinez and Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program intake specialists Karen Crocheron and Lotnario Marchmon.

Davila noted that the HEAP program staff fielded over 2000 applications for heating assistance this year. She said Clark Metro participated in the Toys for Tots distribution providing over 250 toys for neighborhood children. She thanked ACORN organizers for their assistance in helping to assure that health code violations and condemned houses in the neighborhood were addressed by the city. She thanked her staff and volunteers for completing an inventory of all vacant and condemned houses in the neighborhood. She also noted that the organization had completed a list of all fire hydrants and vacant lots in the neighborhood. She said Clark Metro helped to assure that the Streets Division plowed allies in the neighborhood this past winter.

Clark Metro held two community meetings including the recent meeting to allow residents to voice concerns about a proposed adult cabaret on Meyer and W. 25<sup>th</sup>, said Davila. She noted that Clark Metro produced a newsletter and distributed it door to door in the

neighborhood. The organization helped neighborhood seniors and persons with disability do fall cleanup of their yards. Davila said the organization held two fundraisers including a Valentine's Day Ball at the San Lorenzo Club.

Davila said Clark Metro is working to computerize its files and is developing relationships with area businesses and faith-based organizations. Davila says the organization's office at 2511 Clark Avenue averages about thirty visitors a day. Volunteers have helped with the inventory of housing in the neighborhood and with new programs such as the computer lab for neighborhood children.

Davila said while there are about 200 people on the organization's membership mailing list, the organization has only 23 paid members. Board President Buchko said the organization current expenses with much of the staff now serving as volunteers are running between \$2,500 and \$3,000 per month. He

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PHOTO BY JOHN CARTWRIGHT

Monday, April 21, 2008, Clark Metro Annual Meeting, Lin Omni Center, 3167 Fulton Road: Sister Reean Coyne of St. Michael's Church holds up a plaque which will hang in the new Rocco Olivero Computer Room. The room is being dedicated to the memory of the late Rocco Olivero, who worked and volunteered in organizations and causes throughout the Clark Metro neighborhood.

## Board of Zoning Appeals says no to adult cabaret at W. 25th and Meyer Avenue

by Chuck Hoven

In a unanimous vote, the Board of Zoning Appeals decided at an April 21<sup>st</sup> hearing not to grant a variance to an adult cabaret proposed for W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Meyer Avenue.

Over thirty people packed into the Board of Zoning Appeals hearing room on the fifth floor of City Hall for an appeal by D.T.R.G. Inc. to build an adult cabaret on the corner of W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Meyer Avenue. Most of those in attendance came to oppose the building of the adult cabaret on the site of the former Monroe's adult entertainment club, which burned down last November. Many of those in attendance came in vans from area churches. Clark Metro Development Corporation helped coordinate the transportation after residents requested it at a March 19<sup>th</sup> neighborhood meeting held to discuss the proposed adult cabaret.

Attorneys for D.T.R.G. and two of the partners in the corporation, Tom Klein and Gary Brooks, tried to make the argument that adult entertainment was grandfathered in at the site because

there had been adult entertainment there before the city passed its adult entertainment ordinance. They argued that after the November 9<sup>th</sup> fire at Monroe's, the city tore down the structure the next day without permission of the owners. They

argued that four walls were still standing after the fire and the structure could have been rebuilt. They contended that the city denied their due process rights by tearing down the building without notice and was now violating their grandfather rights by making the owners subject to current zoning law.

City of Cleveland attorneys countered the arguments of D.T.R.G. saying that, at the time the permit was applied for, there was no building on the lot—so the current zoning law applies. (The current zoning for the City of Cleveland prohibits building an adult cabaret at the site because of its proximity to residences, churches, schools, playgrounds, and Metro Hospital.)

Members of the Board of Zoning Appeals told the owners that they could only rule on the zoning issues before them, if the owners wanted to

challenge the city for demolishing their building, they would have to do that in court or before the Board of Building Standards.

Attorney Michael Murray, representing D.T.R.G., said the owners of D.T.R.G. agreed to landscape the new facility to the city's specifications. He also then admitted the proposed site did not meet the city's current zoning restrictions of distances from residences, churches, schools, the hospital and playgrounds.

Residents and members of area churches then had an opportunity to testify. Chris Jenkins, a resident of the apartment building next door to the club, testified that when Monroe's was open, there was constant "upheaval and disturbance." He cited broken windows, property damage and urination in the main entrance of the apartment as some of the problems caused by the presence of the club.

Maria Davila, executive director of Clark Metro Development Corporation, read resolution by the 30<sup>th</sup> and Sackett

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, April 20, 2008, St. Rocco Student Art Show, St. Rocco School, 3205 Fulton Road: Eighth Grade student Shanice Morris holds a piece of her artwork.

**Plain Press Summer Youth Guide:** Free listings for summer youth activities for neighborhood children. Non-profit organizations can send information on summer activities to [plainpress@yahoo.com](mailto:plainpress@yahoo.com).

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# Cleveland Municipal School District offers update on building plans

Representatives of the Cleveland Municipal School District offered an update on the school system's Master Facility Plan at an April 10th meeting at Lincoln West High School. Since the passage of Issue 14, in May of 2001 when voters decided to support the rebuilding plan with funds matched 2 to 1 by the State of Ohio, the Cleveland

Municipal School System has lost over 20,000 students. Projections according to a district spokesperson predict the district will only have 42,000 students seven years from now.

David Riley, speaking for the school district before about forty people in attendance at Lincoln West High School, said that the district hopes to challenge

some of the enrollment projections made by a demographer hired by the State of Ohio. He said currently the projections say the district will have only 8,900 high school students in grades nine through twelve in 2015. Riley says the district now has 4,400 students in kindergarten. The district **continued on page 5**

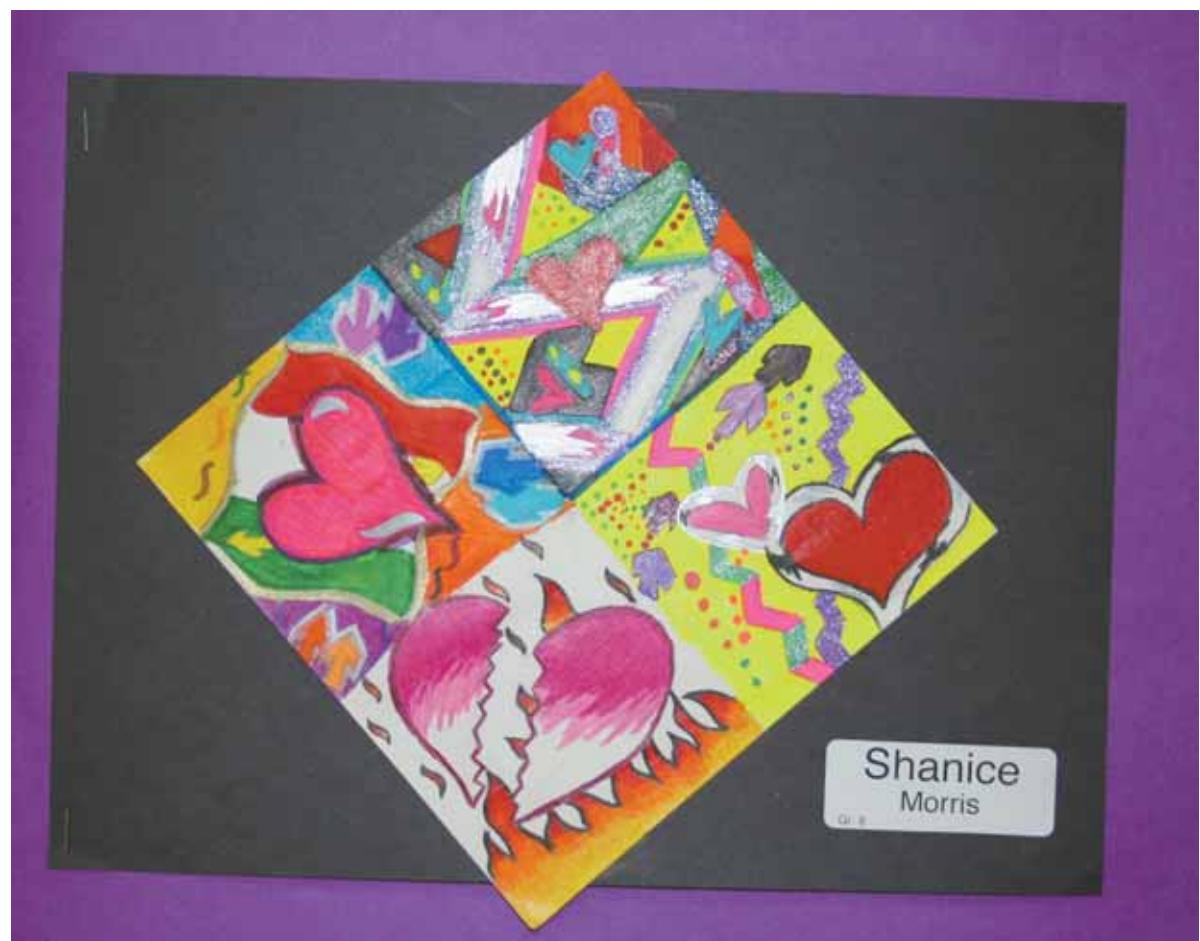


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, April 20, 2008, St. Rocco Student Art Show, St. Rocco School, 3205 Fulton Road: The artwork of eighth grade student Shanice Morris.

### EL TROPICAL

continued from page one

Crucial testimony, and cross-exami-

nation by City Attorney Sue Bungard during hearings at Cleveland City Hall, revealed that El Tropical manager Carmello Colón, was in fact part of a

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corporation, Junior, Inc., that paid the bills of the bar.

In the order addressed to Carmello's brother Heriberto Colon, the liquor permit holder, the Division of Liquor Control said, "the applicant has not disclosed all those persons having a legal or beneficial ownership interest in the business." The order not only took issue with issue with Carmello Colón's involvement in the ownership, but also his serving as manager of the operation saying, "The owner or operator or manager or applicant has been convicted of a crime that is reasonably related to the person's fitness to operate a liquor permit business in this State."

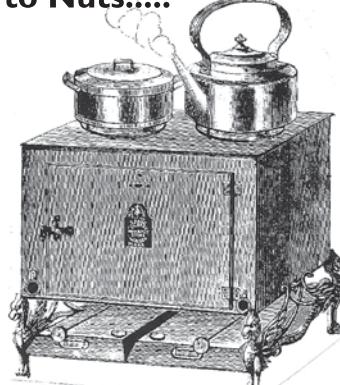
The order indicated that the applicant misrepresented who the owners of the operation were in an liquor permit application originally filed by Heriberto Colón and issued to him as a sole proprietor in October of 1997. The state indicated that at the time the permit was issued the real property was under the name of Junior, Inc. Carmello Colon is listed as the statutory agent of that corporation. The stated purpose of Junior, Inc. on file at the Secretary of State's Office is "to own, manage, and run a cocktail lounge and any other related business."

The Division of Liquor Control order further states that the Liquor Permit holder Heriberto Colón repeatedly over the years provided false information on ten years of liquor permit renewal applications by "consistently indicating that no partner, member, officer, director, shareholder or manager has been convicted of any crime not previously reported by the permit holder to the Division."

At the end of the order the Division of Liquor Control Superintendent Terry Poole indicates that Heriberto Colón has 30 day from the date of the letter in which to appeal the decision to the Liquor Control Commission.

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# Envy Lounge owner placed on probation for failing to have dance hall permit

by Chuck Hoven

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, Envy Lounge owner Zlatan Miskin pleaded no contest to charges of operating a dance hall without the proper permit. Miskin, who appeared before Judge Ronald B. Adrine on April 9<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup> in Criminal Branch of Cleveland Municipal Court, operates the club at W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Chatham.

Judge Adrine sentenced Miskin to 30 days in jail, then suspended that sentence and put Miskin on one-year probation and ordered him to pay court costs of \$261.

Defense attorneys in the case initially argued that the dance hall permit law, written in the 1930s was archaic, vaguely written and unevenly applied throughout the city. They contended that out of 700 liquor establishments in the City of Cleveland, many of whom have entertainment and allow dancing, only 22 have dance hall permits. They also argued that they had a state liquor license and the state of Ohio should monitor their license, not the city of Cleveland. The attorneys further argued that liquor establishments have a reasonable right to privacy and that police officers should have obtained a warrant before entering the establishment. They charged selective enforcement saying that recreation centers and churches hold dances but are not required to have dance hall permits. They also claimed the establishment was being targeted because the people who patronize the establishment were African-American. He wondered why other clubs, for example those who provide Irish music and dancing, were not being given citations.

The Prosecutor argued that the permit law is in place for public safety and enforcement of the law is complaint driven. They noted that a club nearby Envy that serves white patrons had also been cited under the law, as well as La Copa on Clark Avenue, which serves largely Hispanic patrons. Richard Riccardi of the City of Cleveland Department of Building and Housing explained that the dance hall permits were renewable every two years and required inspection for public safety reasons to assure for example that exits were not blocked.

The prosecutor noted the owner

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of Envy was aware that he needed a dance hall permit yet continued to have entertainment in defiance of the law. Prosecutor argued that police were allowed by law to enter the establishment to do a liquor permit inspection at any time. Published ads in the Plain Dealer indicate the establishment was offering dancing. Police entering the establishment can observe the dancing.

Judge Adrine asked whether every restaurant and bar in the City of Cleveland that has dancing and is required by the City of Cleveland to have a dance hall permit, have such a permit. He asked whether the city had a central place with a list of all such establishments required to have a dance hall permit. Riccardi said there is probably not such a list, but the city does have a list of those with current permits and those who have applied for permits. The city then depends on citizen or city council member complaints to initiate an inspection.

## BUILDING PLANS

continued from page 4

disagrees with the state's projection. Riley says the district's contention is the state should allow the district to build high schools to accommodate class sizes based on the amount of students entering kindergarten times four grades. (Four times 4,400 would mean building or rehabbing high schools to accommodate 17,600 students.)

The school district's plans call for completing the elementary school building program first, and postponing the construction of the high schools while it increases its student population and

convincing the state that more space is needed. The district says funding is not currently adequate to fund the high school construction and rehab at the present time. The plan calls for the district to ask voters to extend the bond issue to provide those funds.

Riley says current plans call for rebuilding the 800-student Max Hayes High School at a new site. He mentioned W. 65<sup>th</sup> and Walworth as one possible site. He says once Max Hayes moves to its new location, the school can be used to house John Marshall students while the school is rebuilt or rehabbed. He said the school system hopes to build a new school at John Marshall, but some questions remain because the current building is a historic structure.

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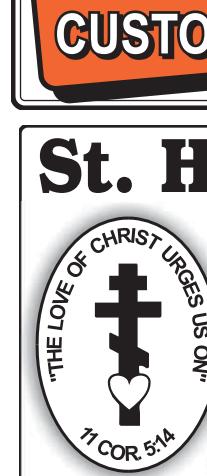


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, April 20, 2008, St. Rocco Student Art Show, St. Rocco School, 3205 Fulton Road: Visitors view the artwork of St. Rocco students. Art teacher Christine Siarka said all of St. Rocco's 185 kindergarten to eighth grade students had at least one piece of their artwork on display at the show.

Riley offered an update on plans for the new Thomas Jefferson K-8 School, which will house 785 students at 3145 W. 46<sup>th</sup> Street. He noted some additional properties have been acquired for the site where a new school will be built. The demolition of the old school is underway. He said the district hopes to complete the new school by 2010.

Riley said a major challenge on the West Side was swing space (space used to house students while their school

is being rehabbed or rebuilt) during construction. He said when Buhler school (off of Scranton) is complete, Buhler students now housed in Kentucky School (W. 38<sup>th</sup> near Franklin) will move from there --freeing up that school for use as swing space. Also, Halle School (between W. 82<sup>nd</sup> and W. 73<sup>rd</sup> on Halle Avenue) will be freed up as swing space when Artemas Ward, now housed at Halle, moves into its new school.

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Sunday, April 20, 2008, Earth Day Coalition's Earthfest 2008, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo: This block of crushed aluminum cans is ready to be shipped for recycling.

## CLARK METRO

continued from page 3

said the organization's revenue largely consists of proceeds from the sale of its parking lot and the contract to do the HEAP program. Buchko said the Clark Metro staff is completely dedicated to the community and is seeking grants to continue funding the organization. He said Clark Metro has applied for Community Development Block Grant

funding from the City of Cleveland for the next fiscal year (beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> 2008).

Clark Metro Board Member Sister Reean Coyne of St. Michael's Church said Clark Metro's new computer lab would be named for the late Rocco Olivero. A volunteer in many neighborhood organizations with a special interest in improving the lives of neighborhood children, Olivero was a long time member of Clark Metro Development

Corporation and a former member of its Board of Trustees. Cleveland Illuminating Company provided funding for setting up the computer lab.

Members in attendance at the annual meeting voted to fill six positions on the Board of Trustees. Elected to serve on the Board of Trustees were residents Art Bakalar and Ron Drabiak and Business or Institutional representatives Pastor Jose Reyes, Frank Varella, Chris Dunn and Marco Burello.

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## ADULT CABARET

continued from page 3

Block Club that noted the area was already saturated with adult businesses. The resolution stated that such businesses "attract drug trafficking, prostitution and myriad of other problems." Davila then read a resolution from the W. 44<sup>th</sup> and Storer Block club contending that the club interfered with the quality of life in the neighborhood and "should not be forced on our children." Davila also noted the opposition to the club by the Women's Ministry of Freedom and the Coalition of Latino Pastors.

Rebecca Kempton, a member of the Clark Metro Development Corporation Board of Trustees, testified as to the strong feelings of residents who opposed "rebuilding the establishment."

Tremont West Development Corporation Executive Director Chris Garland testified that the Metro North Block passed a resolution at its March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting in opposition to granting a variance to the adult cabaret.

A resident expressed concern about the negative impact of an adult cabaret on children that use the swimming pool at W. 30<sup>th</sup> and Meyer. She said, "It is not a very good encouragement when they see prostitutes soliciting."

A representative of St. Michaels' Church said a pimp had approached a

neighborhood woman to try to recruit her as a prostitute.

An attorney for the Cleveland Board of Education Attorney testified that the principal of Lincoln West High School and the Board of Education were strongly opposed to the locating an adult cabaret on the site, which is within about 500 feet from the high school.

A representative of a near by day care center testified in opposition to the club citing the danger of exposing children to drugs and violence while on their community walks around the neighborhood. She said she had signatures from the families served by the day care expressing their opposition to the adult cabaret.

The pastor of Iglesia del Salvador Betesda, at 3232 W. 25<sup>th</sup> just across W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street from the proposed site of the adult cabaret, testified that on many Friday nights female members of his church had been approached by men propositioning them for sex. He said the entrance to his church has been used as a urinal and a toilet and that found needles from drug use on church grounds.

One neighborhood resident spoke in favor of the adult cabaret. He said he was a patron of Monroe's and didn't believe it was the cause of the crime in the neighborhood.

After hearing the testimony, the four members of the Board of Zoning Appeals in attendance voted unanimously to oppose granting a variance.

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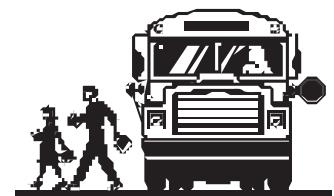
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## COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

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**HEADING HOME COUNTYWIDE INITIATIVE:** Community housing, social justice, and homeless advocates will present the need for a housing trust fund to the Cuyahoga County Com-

missioners, followed by a meeting to discuss next steps, on Thursday, May 8 at 3 p.m. in the 3rd floor Conference Room, 3631 Perkins Avenue. Contact Mike at CTO at 432-0617 or [mail@clevelandtenants.org](mailto:mail@clevelandtenants.org).

### MEETING

**OHIO PATIENTS RIGHTS:** public meeting on the topic "Cleveland Needs A Law to Stop Hospitals From Banning Patients Who Complain" on Monday, May 12 at 5:00 p.m. at the Cleveland Public Library, 325 Superior Avenue, Stokes Wing, room 218. It will be followed by a free public reception with nurse Adrienne Zurub, recently fired by the Cleveland Clinic for writing a book. For information call 216-221-2724.

Officer, Debra Zeleny, in January has somehow "morphed into something about communication."

Mary Ann Jannazzo, President of South Hills Neighborhood Association, said that she and other community members viewed Zeleny as a valuable community resource who was "results oriented" in performing her job duties and that they were "impressed with her ability to get things done – quickly and satisfactorily." She stated that the Executive Director of OBCDC should have found a way to continue to work with Zeleny, despite perceptions of insubordination, in consideration of her "effectiveness in serving community interests" and that her replacement with a "rookie from Berea" was not an adequate step to compensate for Zeleny's 17 years of experience. Jannazzo said that numerous requests to OBCDC for information regarding the firing had gone without an adequate response.

Councilperson Kelley, an attorney at law, said that OBCDC is constrained by employment law governing employee confidentiality from revealing detailed information to the public about Zeleny's personnel file, but that his inquiries into the matter have led him to conclude that the firing was justifiable and that OBCDC "acted absolutely professional when firing the employee." Zeleny attended the meeting with her attorney, Daniel Thiel, who indicated that a lawsuit for wrongful termination of employment was in process and awaiting document discovery. Kelley said that OBCDC had responded to community inquiries regarding the firing of Zeleny to the "maximum extent possible given employment law and pending litigation."

Following the meeting, OBCDC issued a written statement to the press that indicated that, while it was a difficult decision to terminate the employment of Debra Zeleny, OBCDC made the decision that it did following "serious consideration and forethought" and took action that it believed was necessary in building a "strong team on behalf of the community" that OBCDC serves.

Gloria Ferris, a member of the Brooklyn Centre Community Association, said that community concern over the operation of the OBCDC was "not something that happened overnight," but that concerns "happened quietly over time" in response to a number of issues that arose prior to the firing of Zeleny.

Jannazzo stated that her concerns about OBCDC began with problems in communication and accountability during the summer of 2007 regarding grant administration for a project to improve South Hill Town Circle as a community gathering place. OBCDC acted as the fiscal agent for the grant. While improvements to the South Hill Town Circle have been completed to the

### OUTDOORS

**CLEVELAND BICYCLE WEEK,** May 12<sup>th</sup> through May 16<sup>th</sup>, offers a variety of events for all cyclists, including bike tours, daily Bike to Work group rides, bicycle skills training, bike scavenger hunt, Bicycle Friendly Communities Planning Conference, Cleveland Metroparks' first mountain bike trail, and more. For more information visit [ClevelandBicycleWeek.org](http://ClevelandBicycleWeek.org).

**STOCKYARD STEPPERS WALKING GROUP** walks every Monday evening May 12<sup>th</sup> through September 29<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 8 p.m. from St. Boniface Church, 3545 W. 54<sup>th</sup> Street (corner of W. 54<sup>th</sup> and Denison). Bring a neighbor, the kids, the dog. NOTE: NO walks will be held on national holidays or on days of severe weather, high heat index

or advisory. Call Stockyard Redevelopment Organization 961-7687 x 202 for details.

### SENIORS

**CLEVELAND DEPARTMENT OF AGING 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SENIOR DAY:** Wednesday, May 14 at the Cleveland Convention Center, 500 Lakeside Ave. Free and open to all seniors, the Information Fair begins at 10 a.m. and includes lunch at 12 noon.

**OLDER ADULT AND CAREGIVER EXPO:** Friday, May 2 from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Westfield Great Northern Mall in North Olmsted, sponsored by the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, Fairview Hospital and Lakewood Hospital. For information, call 621-8010.

### TAX REBATES

satisfaction of all parties, Jannazzo remains aggrieved by what she perceives to be OBCDC's lack of communication, respect, and candor in addressing this issue and subsequent issues. She described the past year as "one long series of lost opportunities."

The efforts of the Board of Trustees to revise the OBCDC Code of Regulations, which are the equivalent of organizational bylaws, also became a point of contention when presented to membership for a vote at the OBCDC Annual Meeting on October 24, 2007. Jannazzo took particular exception to a revision that would allow only dues paying members to attend regular OBCDC board meetings. Executive Sandys said, in a follow-up interview, that an attorney working with the Board in order to bring the Code of Regulations into conformity with standard practices for non-profit agencies recommended this change. Sandys noted that, even had this change been approved, the Annual Meeting would remain open to the general public and minutes for all board meetings would continue to be made readily available on the OBCDC website.

Jannazzo also expressed a concern that, in her estimation, the revised Code of Regulations continued to favor business interests over those of residential members. A review of the Code of Regulations, however, would not appear to confirm or counter Jannazzo's impression in this regard. Based upon a request by community members at the annual meeting, a committee has been formed that includes representatives from the dissenting community associations to discuss the revision of the OBCDC Code of Regulations.

Ward 15 Councilperson Brian Cummings said, near the end of the meeting, that there are "clearly several sides to the issue being discussed here today," and that he, along with Councilperson Kelley, fully supported mediation in

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reaching reconciliation.

While mediation certainly appears to be required to facilitate accurate and productive communication in the future between contending parties within OBCDC, Hamm said that the role of OBCDC members (both institutional and residential), OBCDC staff and board members, and funding entities (both governmental and private) in the regulation, goals, programs, and governance of OBCDC is certain to be discussed during mediation.

As Randy Cunningham points out in his book, *Democratizing Cleveland: The Rise and Fall of Community Organizing in Cleveland, Ohio 1975-1985* (Arambala Press, Cleveland, Ohio, 2007), "it is unlikely that neighborhood development corporations and their supporting networks would have developed as they did without the earlier community organizing movement as their foundation." Cunningham stated the belief that, currently, the community development corporation "pipeline from the grassroots is shut down." Hamm has read this book.

Hamm views the dissent of community members of OBCDC as a success because it initiated an "important discussion regarding the participation of community members in OBCDC" and that the resulting mediation process has the potential to strengthen the resolve and capacity of OBCDC to effectively address critical issues within the Old Brooklyn community. If this proves to be the case, OBCDC will be in a position to serve as a model for community participation in community development corporations throughout the City of Cleveland.



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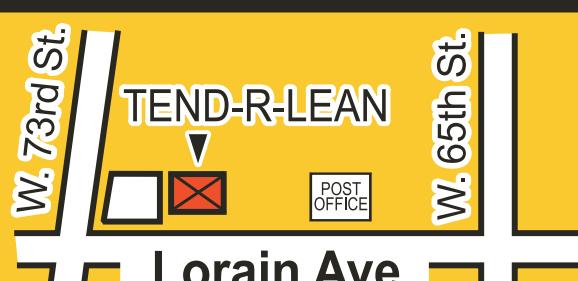
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