



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
 Sunday, January 5, 2014; Edgewater Park: Tyler Delgado, age 16 and Madison Delgado, age 12, visit with the "Sandy Snowman" created by Cleveland Metroparks in house exhibit builders.

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Activists call for new War on Poverty

by Chuck Hoven

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson declaration of "unconditional war on poverty" in his January 1964 State of the Union Address, a number of local organizations held a rally at the Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's

offices at 4515 Superior on January 8th to call for a new national War on Poverty. Organizations sponsoring the rally included: United Clevelanders Against Poverty, Organize! Ohio, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, and Cleveland Jobs With Justice.

In an address to the rally, Reverend Tony Minor, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Advocacy Director, noted the early successes of the War on Poverty such as reducing the child poverty rate from 25% in 1963 to 15% between 1967 and 1975. Minor spelled out reductions in poverty among senior citizens, increased access to health care for poor Americans, and substantial reduction in the nation's infant mortality rate that resulted from the War on Poverty.

Minor noted the War on Poverty was a bi-partisan effort from which emerged increases in Social Security benefits, increases in food stamps, creation of nutritional programs for the elderly, development of Head Start, Upward Bound, Job Corps and work study programs to support college students.

Despite the gains in quality of life for many Americans as a result of the War on Poverty programs – Minor believes "a new era of
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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, January 25, 2014; Edgewater Park: Braving high winds and frigid temperatures, Sam Ortiz and his sons Jose, age 12, and Tom, age 8, prepare to sled down the hill at Edgewater Park.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, January 22, 2014, West Park Youth Activities Fair, Artemus Ward School, 4315 W. 140th Street: Mikayla White, age 6, works on his artwork at the Art House table.

Denison reconstruction underway

PROJECT LINKED TO CLEVELAND PUBLIC POWER UTILITY UPGRADE

by Chuck Hoven

At a Public Information Meeting, held on January 9th, residents and businesses along the Denison Avenue corridor from Ridge Road to I-176 were presented with final plans for a proposed Cleveland Public Power utility upgrade and street reconstruction project. The \$9.1 million, two-year project, is a joint effort between Cleveland Public Power, the City of Cleveland and the Cuyahoga County Engineers. The City of Cleveland Mayor's Office of Capital Projects estimates the entire project will be completed by December of 2015.

The plans call for a new Cleveland Public Power line to run from the railroad property south of Barberton Avenue at W. 62nd, up W. 62nd to Denison and along Denison to the I-176 Bridge. The new Cleveland Public Power line, starts at the Ridge Road Transfer

Station, and will eventually run all the way to the Broadway/ Slavic Village neighborhood on the East Side of the Cuyahoga River. It will be buried at least 30" below the surface and encased in concrete. The line will run under the road surface on W. 62nd and Denison Avenue. Cleveland Public Power's plans caused the City of Cleveland to move up plans for pavement reconstruction and putting in new sidewalks, curbs and driveways along the Denison corridor. CPP says the new line will increase the reliability of its service and allow it to increase its customer base.

When the reconstruction of Denison from Ridge to I-176 is complete, there will be a new traffic pattern on Denison Avenue. The street will be remarked to allow only one lane for car traffic in each direction. Parking will be eliminated
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Ohio creates new program for dual eligible Medicaid and Medicare recipients

The five counties in the Greater Cleveland Metropolitan Area will be among 29 demonstration counties in the State of Ohio that will participate MyCareOhio, a new managed care program for Ohioans 18 years and older who receive both Medicaid and Medicare benefits.

Speaking at the January 11th meeting of Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE), Deborah Nebel of Linking Employment Abilities and Potential (LEAP), said dual eligible Medicaid and Medicare consumers in this area will be given a choice of one of three managed care plans: Buckeye

Community Health, CareSource and United Health Care.

Nebel says that beginning in February, consumers will have the opportunity to sign up voluntarily to one of the three plans. She said notices would be sent out in March to those who haven't signed up yet, outlining the choices. In April, those who haven't signed up will be assigned one to one of the three managed care companies. Nebel says, there are roughly 33,000 people in the five-county region that are dual eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. She says about half are under age sixty-five and half are

over age sixty-five.

The three managed care plans may offer different services to attract consumers, says Nebel. For example, she said one may offer more comprehensive dental coverage, and another may provide transportation to health care appointments. She urged those eligible to research the program that best fits their needs.

Consumers will also have a chance to be involved in the governance and oversight of the managed care plans, said Nebel. She said this opportunity for involvement is the
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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, January 5, 2014; Edgewater Park: (L-R) Devin McNulty and Peggy McNulty made a special trip to Edgewater Park to see this ice sculpture created by Elegant Ice Creations.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, January 22, 2014, West Park Youth Activities Fair, Artemus Ward School, 4315 W. 140th Street: Stephanie Kluk of Art House shows some artwork samples to Mikael White, age 4.



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A HOME AND GARDEN TOUR is being planned in the Cudell neighborhood for late Spring. If you would like your garden/home to be on the tour, please email anita@cudell.com to express interest.

DETROIT SHOREWAY

BREAKWATER DEVELOPMENT is being planned for 11 acres of industrial property along Breakwater Avenue, overlooking the West Shoreway between West 58th and West 65th streets. The four apartment building and 19 townhouse-style rental home proposal will be discussed during a community meeting being held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School Gymnasium, 6928 Detroit Ave., at 7 pm on January 30th. Contact John Hausman at 216-961-4242 x226 or jhausman@dscdo.org for more information.

DETROIT SHOREWAY ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for Thursday, February 27th. It will feature a look back at DSCDO's 40 year history and a spaghetti dinner. The meal is free to DSCDO members and \$10.00 for non-members. Held in the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Pope John Hall at 6928 Detroit Ave., dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30 pm and the meeting will begin at 6:30 pm

DETROIT SHOREWAY BLOCK CLUBS are listed at <https://us-mg5.mail.yahoo.com/neo/launch?rand=f0t9r94c89ova#mail>.

THIRD FRIDAYS at Gordon Square Arts District will be Friday, February 21st. Check out what your favorite artists are up to while sipping wine and chatting with friends. Check <http://78thstreetstudios.com>.

OTHER GORDON SQUARE Arts District events are on http://www.dscdo.org/news_events.aspx#events.

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Civic Commons Community Conversation offers citizens insight into City and County budgets

by **Chuck Hoven**

On January 22nd at the Bier Markt on W. 25th Street, Andrew Samtoy of Ideastream's Civic Commons hosted a community conversation on the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County budgets. The public forum offered an opportunity to gain insight into the thinking of Cleveland's new Council President Kevin Kelley, and County Council Finance Committee Chair Dale Miller. Angela Shuckahosse, Executive Director of the Cleveland Tenants Organization, also participated in the panel, offering insight from the perspective of a non profit organization competing for a slice of city and county funding, as well as some thoughts on the City of Cleveland's budgeting process from time spend working for Council President Sweeney's office at Cleveland City Council.

Of the three panelist, Shuckahosse's participation was perhaps most intriguing given the Guest Column she had written for the Cleveland Plain Dealer on November 26, 2013, titled *Cleveland Browns stadium deal should put Mayor Jackson under microscope*. The article appeared after Cleveland City Council, with little public discussion, approved by a 13 -5 margin a deal to give the Cleveland Browns \$2 million a year for 15 years for stadium repairs and a new scoreboard. In the article, Shuckahosse questioned Mayor Frank Jackson's contention that the City of Cleveland could spare the \$2 million a year, so City Council shouldn't worry about the deal. Shuckahosse noted cuts to social service agencies performing services in the city and pointed out that some members of Cleveland City Council pointed out there are two Cleveland's "one for the "haves" and one for the "have-nots." She then contended that the voices of the "have-nots" of Cleveland are being lost in the budgeting process.

The Civic Commons Conversation at the Bier Markt offered an opportunity for Clevelanders to learn about the City and County Budget Process and how their voices can be heard.

Council President Kevin Kelley

DUAL ELIGIBLE

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result of an agreement between the State of Ohio and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Nebel says she and Semanthie Brooks of the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging have been working with the Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio to organize a coalition to promote consumer involvement in MyCareOhio. She urged members of NOBLE and other low income advocacy groups, whom are dual eligible for Medicaid and Medicare, to consider becoming involved in the Ohio Consumer Voice Coalition as a consumer advocates working to help MyCareOhio "realize the promise of better coordinated care and services."

Those interested in serving on the Ohio Consumer Voice Coalition to monitor the new program should call Deborah Nebel of LEAP at 696-2716, or Semanthie Brooks of the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging at 791-8000.

Editor's Note: For more information on how to sign up for MyCareOhio, call the Ohio Medicaid Consumer Hotline at (800) 324-8680, Monday – Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or visit online at www.ohiomh.com.

offered an overview of the City of Cleveland's revenue and expenditures. He said while some other cities have been filing for bankruptcy the City of Cleveland has balanced its budget each year and still has money for doing deals with developers. He said the biggest portion of the city's revenue, about 55%, comes from the 2% income tax. Other sources of local revenue include property tax and administrative taxes. Kelley said the largest expenditure in the City of Cleveland's Budget is for safety forces. He said, police, fire and EMS account for about 60% of the City's

General Fund budget. The second highest expenditure is for public works such as garbage and snow removal, he added. The city also has capital obligations for repairs and maintenance of property it owns, said Kelley, which it pays from a Capital Repair Fund.

Separate budgets exist for Water Department, the Airport, and Cleveland Public Power, which are all supported by fees from users and ratepayers, said Kelley.

County Council Finance Chair Dale Miller said Cuyahoga County has three major sources of revenue, the Sales Tax, Property Tax from the

Health and Human Services Levy, and intergovernmental transfers from the State and Federal Government. He said expenditures for Health and Human Services account for the largest part of the budget about 50%, with Public Safety (i.e. the Sheriff's Office and the County Courts) being the second highest area of expenditure at about 25%. Miller said, the rest of the expenses for Cuyahoga County account for 25% of expenditures. Miller said Cuyahoga County has a practice of keeping about 25% of its funds in reserve. In this way, he says the County avoids having to layoff peo-

ple in recessions and has money for emergency expenses.

Miller said Cuyahoga County is the only county in the State of Ohio with a two-year budget. He says the County's two-year budget takes effect six months after the State of Ohio approves its biennial budget. During the six months between when the State Budget begins on July 1st and the end of the year, the County's office of Management and Budget offers estimates of upcoming expenses and County Council holds open sessions on the budget. Miller says the sessions are streamed live on the Cuyahoga County website and residents have an opportunity to speak for 3 minutes at County Council meetings and committee meetings.

Kelley said Cleveland City Council receives the Mayor's budget estimate each year at the end of January. It holds two weeks of budget hearings, and passes a budget generally by mid April. Prior to passage the legislation will get three readings at Cleveland City Council's Monday night meetings. While Cleveland City Council has no provision for allowing time for the public to speak at its Monday night meetings, Kelley says public input at City Council Committee meetings is up to the Chairperson's discretion. Unlike Cuyahoga County, the City of Cleveland doesn't have a large reserve fund. Kelley says all budget changes have to be reconciled. He says sometimes there are funds left over from previous years in department budgets to help with this or individual departments may spend less than allocated on one project and have money left over to help reconcile an expense that goes over budget.

Shuckahosse noted that for non-

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, January 22, 2014, Civic Commons at the Bier Markt, 1948 W. 25th Street, Conversation about Cleveland and Cuyahoga County Budgets: (L-R) Cleveland Tenants Organization Executive Director Angela Shuckahosse, Cleveland City Council President Kevin Kelley, and Civic Commons Ideastream's Andrew Samtoy.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, January 8th; Rally for New War on Poverty, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, 4515 Superior Avenue: As part of a call to renew the War on Poverty, Greg Coleridge urges us to "Stop the War on Our Children Now!!! Education 4 All. Invest in Our Future."

WAR ON POVERTY

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thinking emerged about the role of government beginning with Nixon and hitting its apex under Reagan," eroded the momentum that was reducing the percentage of people living in poverty. Minor recalled that Reagan declared the War on Poverty to be over and famously stated, "Government is not a solution to our problems; government is the problem." Minor says that philosophy resulted in "a full retreat from the programs that began under Johnson."

Despite the rollback of programs, Minor noted a Columbia University study where economists used the Supplemental Poverty Measure to assert that the United States poverty rate adjusted for inflation has fallen from "26% in 1967 to 16% today."

In urging a new battle for progressive change, Minor says, "The battle today is not simply one of poverty, but it also includes income equality and equity." He urged the creation of a "new rhetoric that invites and transforms a disinterested population to see the economic value of expanding the

table and sharing the wealth."

In this battle for a more equitable future for America, Minor says, "We must inspire a new cadre of young leaders and let them lead with new and fresh approaches."

Minor finished his remarks saying, "I believe deeply that all Americans should have and must have equal access and equal opportunity. If democracy and equality are real and true qualities, then it must not be shallow economically but contain the means for all Americans to have a fruitful and prosperous life. Without such, it is a dream or even a lie. It is like having the right to stand before a door but not given the strength or capacity to open it and walk through."

Following Minor's remarks, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry President and CEO Andrew Genszler spoke about convening a poverty conference later this year. He picked up on Minor's call to create a new cadre of young leaders, and called upon the young VISTA volunteers and staff involved in LMM programs to bring new ideas and vision to the table.

Larry Bresler of Organize! Ohio noted the dismantling of the poverty programs that began under

President Reagan and continues to this day. He said since the time of Reagan, presidents have not talked about ending poverty. Left out of the public dialogue, Bresler said the poor have been excluded from society and are being denied their rights as citizens.

John Hairston Jr., District Director for Congresswoman Marcia Fudge, talked about the Congressional Black Caucus' efforts to create programs that "lift people up and out of poverty." He said one proposal is to devote 10% of all new government revenue to the poorest 20% of communities in the country. He spoke of the importance of removing obstacles to the success of students and to re-examining policies that contribute to a growing income gap. Hairston called ending poverty "a civil rights battle." Hairston promised that the Congressional Black Caucus, which Congresswoman Fudge chairs, "will not rest until there is progress on these issues."

Diana King, Chair of Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality and a member of United Clevelanders Against Poverty talked about the plight of families doing volunteer work to continue to receive public assistance, yet not getting assistance to work toward a college degree or training for the skills to obtain meaningful employment. She said her family volunteers 50 hours a week to keep from losing \$434 in benefits. She said on a per hour basis it amounts to \$1.97 per hour. While the volunteer work consumes many hours, it does not offer the skill training or education needed to secure a quality job. King said, in Cuyahoga County there are 900 families per caseworker. She says the Department of Jobs and Family services often cuts people off their benefits for minor infractions. King pointed out that by shredding the safety net – cutting people off from benefits – increases the poverty level by depriving them of the time and resources to take steps to improve their future prospects.

Debbie Klein of Cleveland Jobs With Justice called for raising the minimum wage to a living wage. She said by raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour five million people would immediately be taken out of poverty.

Reverend Aaron Phillips, a pastor and member of Common Good Ohio, called for an end to the "War on the Poor." He called on companies such as Walmart to pay a fair wage. He called for equal educational opportunity and an end to policies that take away from providing quality public education for all. He said, "You should not have to live in a rich suburb or be able to pay tuition to Catholic schools to get a quality education."

In a call for action, Phillips said poor people should have a clear pathway out of poverty for those willing to take it. He called for equal opportunity for residents living in Riverview and Lakeview on W. 25th Street or Garden Valley on the East Side.

Retired Cleveland teacher Meryl Johnson equated reducing poverty with increased educational attainment, saying, "Raise the minimum wage, and test scores will go up."

Local Economist George Zeller said, "Poverty is up in this region this year." He noted that the five county region that includes Cleveland in November of 2013, for the seventh month in a row, lost more jobs than any other major metropolitan area in the country. "This region is bleeding jobs. The only way out of poverty is to create jobs," said Zeller.

Gail Long called for unity in the new war on poverty. "We have to do this together, regardless of color or faith, or we are never going to get it done."



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, January 8th; Rally for New War on Poverty, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, 4515 Superior Avenue: Poverty Warrior Rowena Ventura with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Advocacy Director Reverend Tony Minor. Ventura rose from a coffin symbolizing the resurrection of the War on Poverty.

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BUDGETS

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profits competing for City or County dollars there is often a lump sum of dollars set aside for a specific purpose. The organizations competing for those those dollars have to show they can meet the performance criterion set and provide the promised services to city residents. Shuckahoose referred to her Plain Dealer article about the \$2 million a year given to the Browns stadium, noting the sentiment from those vying for those dollars is "There isn't a lot of money. Why did this money need to be allocated in this way?" She noted it is like the cash strapped city saying, "We have an extra \$2 million lying around – you can have it."

Kelley defended the Cleveland City Council saying, Council people work for what is in "the best interest of the City of Cleveland." He said City Council works to balance between the availability of funds and the needs of the citizens.

Shuckahoose talked about some of the critical needs of Cleveland residents that are not being met. She said in a recent discussion about expanding pre-school attendance in Cleveland, one of the issues was that parents couldn't get their children to quality pre-schools because of they don't have adequate transportation. She talked about the possibility of Cleveland service organizations finding out how to compete for new revenue from the casinos now going to downtown interests such as Playhouse Square.

Kelley said people with concerns about issues should call their Councilperson. He said, "People who seek public office are here because we want to listen to people and do better." He says Council people want to work to improve the quality of life of the people of the City of Cleveland.

Shuckahoose urged residents to call their representatives and city officials when they have a concern. She noted the truth in the saying the "Squeaky wheel gets the grease." Shuckahoose said it is her experience that, "People do answer their phones. The they do respond."

Kelley, Miller and Shuckahoose all urged residents to come to public meetings and pay attention to the political process. There was some discussion about modernizing the method of communicating with residents about meeting times and agendas. Perhaps creating a list of people who regularly attend or who would like an email of meeting notices.

Miller says when considering the County Budget he "looks for things that are going to make people's lives better and save money down the road." He used early childhood education programs and drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs as examples of investments that will save money over the long term.

When asked about the tens of thousands of Cuyahoga County residents that stand to lose their food stamps because of the work requirement now tied to receiving food stamps, Miller said the Department of Health and Human Services was allocated \$800,000 so workers could call food stamp recipients and let them know of the pending cuts and some job training programs they may access. When asked, if, with the Cleveland area leading the nation in job losses, those training programs would lead to real meaningful jobs, Miller admitted that was a problem.

Asked whether he would be willing to place on the ballot with the sin tax for the stadium and arena repairs a competing sin tax to fund education, job training, mental health services, and other needs of "the have-nots", Miller said that the State Legislature specifically limited the sin tax to its renewal for its current use. Miller did not mention the lobbying from individuals in Cuyahoga County to make that legislation happen.

Editor's Note: In late January, Cuyahoga County Council unanimously passed a measure to place a 20 year sin tax extension on the May ballot. If the levy passes, funds from taxing cigarettes, beer and wine would go toward funding repairs and upgrades at Progressive Field, Quicken Loans Arena, and FirstEnergy Stadium.



Wednesday, January 22, 2014, West Park Youth Activities Fair, Artemus Ward School, 4315 W. 140th Street: Children from the Riverside Children's Chorus, led by Pat Harris of the Rainey Institute, showcase their talent at the Youth Activities Fair. Harris has worked with students at Riverside School for the past four years, offering the resources of the Rainey Institute to students who like to sing.

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

DENISON AVENUE PROJECT

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on both sides of Denison and a bike lane will be painted on the road surface in both directions. The exception will be for turn lanes.

The roughly fifty residents and businesses in attendance were generally receptive to the ideas in the plan. Many had attended a planning meeting last year. Some residents called for the bike lanes to be painted green to give them more emphasis. Questions were raised about the possibility of burying other utilities and the prospects of connecting the bike lanes to other planned bike lanes. City officials said the burying of telephone, cable and electrical lines would not be part of this project. They revealed that planned bike routes would eventually link up to the Denison bike lanes via W. 65th, W. 44th and W. 41st Streets.

The biggest controversy at the meeting involved plans to start the project the day after the meeting, on January 10th. Plans called for reducing traffic to one direction along W. 62nd and Denison from Ridge to Fulton. Residents and business owners said that was too

little notice. Residents warned that RTA bus riders on the 81, 21 and 45A buses would be left stranded as nothing had yet appeared on the RTA website about the proposed traffic changes.

Residents urged that both RTA and the four schools along the corridor be made aware of the timeline for traffic pattern changes and construction detours before the project starts so they can communicate to riders and school children and their families.

Business owners said they would like at least a week notice to get proposed detour routes to drivers and employees. One business said he had drivers coming from out of town locations such as Chicago and California and drivers would need advance notice.

The wisdom of the proposed detour route – down W. 73rd to Clark was also questioned. The local block club chairperson warned that buses have a difficult time negotiating the turn from W. 73rd to Clark. She wondered if semi trucks could make the turn. Concern was also expressed about the low clearance of the railroad bridge at W. 65th and Clark.

Planners agreed to delay the start of the project to at least the following Monday. The delay turned out to be longer. On January 16th the City of Cleveland, Ward 14 Councilman Brian Cummins, and the Stockyard, Clark-Fulton Brooklyn Centre Community Development Office sent out emails to announce new starting dates (weather permitting). The starting date for work on W. 62nd was announced as January 20th

An Advisory issued on January 28th indicates that work on Denison Avenue between W. 65th and Fulton will begin on February 3rd, weather permitting. There was no mention of the timeline for Denison from Ridge to W. 65th. The advisory included a new detour route, which incorporated some of the suggestions at the public meeting.

The advisory says, "One westbound lane of traffic will be maintained along the north side of Denison from Fulton to W. 65th Street. Eastbound traffic approaching West

65th Street will be detoured. Cars eastbound on Denison will be required to detour north on West 65th to eastbound Clark, to southbound Fulton and back to eastbound Denison. Trucks eastbound on Denison will be required to detour North on West 65th to eastbound Lorain, to southbound Fulton and back to eastbound Denison." The advisory further states that this segment of the construction is expected to take 10 months.

Editor's Note: The City of Cleveland has promised to maintain driveway access for residents and businesses during construction. At the January 9th meeting residents and businesses were urged to call Project Inspector David McAllen on his cell phone at 216-857-0897 to report any problems during construction. Other project contacts are: Frank Keehl, Project Manager, at 216-664-2256 and Khalil Ewais, Chief Construction Engineer, at 216-664-7422.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, January 22, 2014, Civic Commons at the Bier Markt, 1948 W. 25th Street, Conversation about Cleveland and Cuyahoga County Budgets: Sue Alexander a member of the Board of Senior Citizen Resources in Old Brooklyn, lobbies for more funding for Senior Citizen Nutrition Programs.

Redeemer Crisis Center receives "Matthew 25: Neighbors in Need" grant

Redeemer Crisis Center, 2970 W. 30th St., Cleveland, OH, 44113, recently received a \$5,000 "Lutheran Community Matthew 25: Neighbors in Need" grant from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation. The funding was awarded to Redeemer based on its effectiveness in addressing physical, emotional and/or spiritual needs in the local community such as food, clothing, shelter, fellowship, and care for the sick based on Jesus' words in Matthew 25: 35-36.

Redeemer Crisis Center has also elected to participate in a complementary two-to-one challenge grant program sponsored by the Foundation. For every dollar raised by Redeemer from donors by Mar. 31, 2014, the Thrivent

Financial for Lutherans Foundation will provide an additional 50 cents—up to \$5,000—in support of the organization's ministry.

"We are delighted to assist Redeemer through this grant, said Richard Kleven, vice president of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation. "We trust that this support will strengthen Redeemer's outreach/ministry to those it serves."

"Thrivent has been a consistent supporter of Redeemer Crisis Center and its people," said Diane Zellmer, Director of Redeemer Crisis Center "We are excited and grateful for this opportunity to partner with others to earn additional funds for the support of the people in our neighborhood."

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Teachers' unions urged to present an alternative vision for educational reform

by Chuck Hoven

Sociologist, author and public education advocate Pedro Noguera spoke to a group of community activists and educators at Cleveland State University on January 23rd calling for teachers unions to step up and articulate a vision for educational reform. Noguera says he has been troubled over the past few years to see teachers under attack and "to a large degree, unions not being effective in articulating a different vision for reform."

Noguera said public schools play a major role in preparing citizens to participate in democracy. He called public schools the foundation of democracy. He warned that public schools in our major cities are in crisis because of the growth in charter schools.

Noguera said the educational reform agenda now embraced by both political parties is steadily dismantling public education, particularly in cities. He noted the educational policies being pursued by the Obama administration are largely a continuation of the policies that began in the Bush administration with No Child Left Behind. The policies emphasize firing teachers and closing schools that don't perform well on standardized tests.

The educational policy being promoted by both Democrats and Republicans undermines public education by siphoning off students and resources from public schools and promoting privately administered charter schools. He said the charter schools are largely an urban phenomenon.

Noguera said an Equity Commission Report commissioned by Congress recommended that attention should be paid to the huge disparities in children. The report was largely ignored by Congress, said Noguera, however New York's new mayor, Bill de Blasio, has an educational reform agenda which looks at disparities and aims to address inequality and poverty. Noguera urged those present to watch what happens in New York City.

Emphasizing the importance of teachers' unions in counteracting the failing educational policies that are undermining public education in cities across the nation, Noguera said, "no other organization is strong enough."

Offering a prescription for reform to be let by the teachers' unions, Noguera suggested the reform should address three issues: teacher evaluation, working conditions and a vision for capacity building in schools.

Teacher Evaluation

Noguera recommends teachers challenge their performance being measured by student test scores on standardized tests. While rejecting this type of measurement, teachers can't say, "don't evaluate," said Noguera. Instead he suggested,

"Peer evaluation done correctly could be an alternative."

In addition he suggested that teachers' unions should develop professional standards to evaluate the stature of teachers. He said hairdressers and plumbers have more rigorous criterion to enter their professions than do teachers. Getting a degree in education is no guarantee that a teacher can actually teach kids, he said.

Compounding this problem, Noguera said school districts, honoring seniority rather than the needs of kids, often place the newest and most inexperienced teachers in the most difficult classes.

Teacher Unions should spend their resources promoting professional standards and core competencies rather than devoting resources to defending problem teachers, said Noguera. Colleagues not doing their job, makes the job of dedicated teachers more difficult, he noted, urging the union to change their tactics.

Working Conditions

By advocating for good working conditions such as smaller class sizes, safety and adequate resources, Noguera argues, that teachers will gain parents as allies and give the union more strength. He said that improving working conditions would help to retain teachers in the profession as well. Teachers leaving the profession listed poor conditions at their schools as the number one reason for leaving the profession, said Noguera.

Vision about Capacity

In creating a vision for change teachers need to garner the support of parents, businesses, local foundations, churches and civic groups around an agenda for revitalizing and improving schools, said Noguera.

Noguera said the teachers unions when developing a vision about capacity building need to look to other countries that have built the capacity to make strides to make sure kids can meet higher educational standards. In addition to preparing

teachers properly, putting good curriculum in place other resources need to be in place. Noguera said, "When we don't have enough social workers and school psychologists, we don't have the means to respond to the needs of the kids."

He talked again about the agenda being proposed in New York City by Mayor Bill de Blasio which includes universal preschool and taxing the rich to provide the resources needed for the schools.

Noguera called for the addressing of multiple issues faced by students living in poverty. He said, "Poverty is not a learning disability, but poverty ignored is disabling."

In order to make the public more aware of the conditions prevalent in many urban schools, Noguera suggested that teachers unions sponsor Conditions for Teaching Surveys in the schools. Such surveys would highlight the resources needed in schools and could be used in efforts to secure public support to gain the resources needed to teach. He suggested that members of the public be brought into the schools and shown the conditions.

Also teachers need to show the public the connection between massive use of standardized tests to judge teachers and close schools. Noguera suggested that teachers unions promote diagnostic tests as an alternative -- tests that can be used to get timely feedback to teachers that can in turn be used to help students to learn.

Noguera called for teachers unions to ask for waivers from the state to forego the standardized tests in order to show the value of using performance based diagnostic tests in improving student outcomes. He said students whose educational experience includes diagnostic testing and feedback have higher graduation rates and higher retention rates in college.

Stressing the importance of such action, Noguera said, "Cleveland will never be a great city without good public schools."

Max S. Hayes High School construction agreement could be example for country

Cleveland Metropolitan School District's (CMSD) efforts to make sure that recent graduates, Cleveland residents and minority and female workers help build the new Max S. Hayes High School will be featured in a video at a national labor conference in March.

The District and the construction manager, Higley Bowen Construction Partners, have an agreement that calls for recent CMSD graduates to log 15,000 hours on the project. Higley Bowen also is to see that the general contractor and subcontractors make good-faith efforts to employ Cleveland residents and minority and female workers.

North America's Building Trades Unions, the conference host, has traveled across the country to view collaboration that promotes the hiring of skilled workers and creates pipelines to jobs, said Tom Owens, the group's director of marketing and communications. Other stops have included New York City, Boston, Seattle, Los Angeles and Jackson, Miss.

A videographer recorded interviews Wednesday at the construction site near West 65th Street and Clark Avenue, talking to District Chief Operating Officer Patrick Zohn and apprentices with connections to Cleveland and the schools.

The video will be shown at the conference, which will run from March 9-12 in Washington, D.C. Copies will be distributed to all 3,000 participants and to state and local construction trades councils throughout the country.

"This is going to be shown around the nation," said David Wondolowski, executive secretary for the Cleveland Construction and Building Trades Coun-

cil and the contact who steered Owens to CMSD. "It's going to put CMSD on the radar to say, 'This is who we want to emulate.'"

Max S. Hayes, now at 4600 Detroit Avenue, is a career and technical school that will provide state-of-the-art programs at its new location. The project, budgeted at up to \$44 million, is to be finished in time for the 2015-16 school year.

All the workers on the project are union members. Wondolowski said the council and CMSD have nearly completed design of a program that will move Max S. Hayes students into apprenticeships.

Pharoah Hill, a glazer's apprentice who went to Collinwood High School, and Chiela Long, a pipefitter's apprentice who attended CMSD K-8 schools and now lives in the Slavic Village neighborhood, told the videographer about the training and mentoring they have received on the job. Long, 30, spoke about being a woman in a field dominated by men.

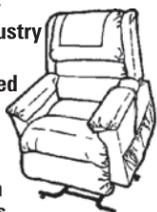
"I have the ambition," she said. "I'm not a quitter. I'm going to do whatever it takes."

Zohn said the Cleveland Building and Construction Trades Council is a good partner. "We look to them not only to build quality buildings, but to provide quality mentoring to our students so our students can be the quality builders of tomorrow," he said.

Owens and the videographer also visited Mayor Frank G. Jackson, who championed a community benefits agreement with local institutions and corporations. The agreement promotes the training and hiring of minority workers and Cleveland residents in construction projects.

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COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

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EDUCATION & YOUNG PEOPLE

ACT/SAT prep days for high school students are available at the West Side Community House. Call Brittinie Jermon at (216) 771-7297 x 348 or email bjerm@wschouse.org.

THE 2014 SUMMER INTERNSHIP program sponsored by the Cleveland Foundation is accepting applications until February 14, 2014. The internships--for college juniors or seniors in fall of the current year, graduate students, or recent college graduates--are paid. The program runs from June 2 and ends on Aug. 16, 2014. Placements are with the nonprofit and public sector agencies, including west side sites listed at their website. For more information and to apply: <http://goo.gl/XFXLhS>.

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT updates its website daily. Check it out at <http://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/domain/409>.

EARTH DAY COALITION CHILDREN'S ART, POETRY & ESSAY CONTEST for students grade K-12. Students are asked to share their thoughts and feelings on "Zero Waste" through drawings, paintings, photography, essays or poetry. Entries are judged on understanding of the environmental topic, creativity and originality. Winning entries are displayed at Earth Day Coalition's EarthFest 2014 at Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds for thousands of visitors to see. For more information, visit <http://www.earthdaycoalition.org/content/art-poetry-and-essay-contest>.

BECOME A FOSTER PARENT through Bellefaire JCB for youths up to the age of 21 who have faced challenges so severe that they must be temporarily removed from their home and placed in foster care. Permanent Foster Care opportunities are also available. Call 216/320-8251 or fostercare@bellefairejcb.org.

JOYFUL NOISE is a neighborhood music school providing music lessons, lending instruments and other resources for free through grants and donations. For more information or to volunteer, call 216/267-1373.

NEAR WEST THEATRE Presents ONCE ON THIS ISLAND Jr. Auditions: February 4, 5 or 6, 2014 from 6 pm to 8 pm. Ages: 9-15. This is a group audition. Come one of these evenings. Plan to stay for the entire time specified. Auditions will be held at West Side United Church of Christ, 3800 Bridge Avenue. Arrive 15 minutes early to register. Anyone arriving after the starting time will not audition that day. For more information, e-mail the director, Kelcie Dugger, at kdugger@nearwesttheatre.org or call the Near West Office at 216-961-9750.

SCHOLARSHIPS for young volunteers funded by Kohl's Department Stores are available by logging onto at kohlskids.com. Nominations for kids ages six to 18 will be accepted January 31 - March 14, and nominators must be 21 years or older.

VOICES FOR OHIO'S CHILDREN ADVOCACY DAY will be held on February 20th from 9 am to 3 pm at the Ohio Statehouse. Meet with elected officials and learn why ad-

vocacy is so important for children. The event is free and includes lunch. For more information, contact Aleksandra Panovska at apanovska@vfc-oh.org.

FAMILY HISTORY

GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH CLINICS are hosted at the Cleveland Public Library Main Branch, History and Geography Dept., 6th Fl, Louis Stokes Wing, 525 Superior Ave., NE monthly through June, including Saturday, February 8. Beginners should arrive by 10:45 am, and more advanced researchers can arrive any time between 10:30 am and 1:30 pm. Clinics end at 2 pm. Free and open to all. No registration necessary. For more information, call 216/623-2864.

FLU SHOTS

FREE FLU SHOTS are available every Friday from 8:30 am until 11:30 am at McCafferty Health Center, 4242 Lorain Ave. Remember to bring your insurance card. Call 216/651-5005 with questions.

FURNITURE

THE CLEVELAND FURNITURE BANK provides basic home furnishings to 3,000 individuals each year. Its headquarters within the Southland Shopping Center in Middleburg Heights features a referral-only area for families in need and a retail thrift store. Additionally, its separate fund-based cause, Beds for Kids, turns monetary donations into new beds for children of families referred to the furniture bank. To learn more, visit www.clevelandfurniturebank.org

HEALTH INSURANCE

INFORMATION ON HEALTH CARE INSURANCE available under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) can be found at www.healthcare.gov or 800/318-2596.

FOR AN APPOINTMENT REGARDING THE ACA with a Certified Application Counselor at the Neighborhood Family Practice at 3569 Ridge Road, call 216-281-0872, ext 291.

ACA ASSISTANCE is also available at Lorain Branch Library, 8216 Lorain Avenue. Someone from the CMS Assistants will be there to answer questions about the Affordable Health Care Act, help with enrollment and assist in navigating the web site, every Wednesday from 1 pm - 5 pm through the month of March.

MEDICAID is available to Ohioans who can enroll through the state's website at <http://medicaid.ohio.gov/forohioans/GetCoverage/WhoQualifies.aspx> or Benefits.Ohio.gov. Ohioans who have already applied for Medicaid through the Federal website must re-apply through the state website.

Children and pregnant women up to 200 percent of poverty and adults with income up to 138 percent of poverty are eligible. **MYCARE OHIO** is a managed care plan available to Ohioans who are eligible for BOTH Medicaid and Medicare. Medicaid benefits will be available only through the My Care plan you choose, but you may choose continue to receive the Medicare benefits the way you do today. Medicaid Consumer Hotline at 800/324-8680 Monday-Friday from 7 am to 8 pm and Saturdays from 8 am to 5 pm or visit www.ohiomh.com.

LEGAL AID

FREE ADVICE ON CIVIL LEGAL ISSUES for low-income individuals is available on a first come, first served basis at the Fulton Branch

of the Cleveland Public Library, 3545 Fulton Rd. on February 8 from 9:30 am to 11 am. Bring all relevant paperwork with you. Call 216/623-6969 for more information, or visit <http://lasclv.org/02082013/> **THE SPANISH AMERICAN COMMITTEE** also hosting a free advice clinic on civil legal issues for low-income individuals on a first come, first served basis at 4407 Lorain Ave. on February 22 from 9:30 am to 11 am. Bring all relevant paperwork with you. Call 216/961-2100 or visit <http://lasclv.org/02222014/> for more information.

NEIGHBORHOOD

CONNECTIONS GRANTS

THE NEXT NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTION grant cycle is here. These grants are to support the grass roots efforts of neighborhood groups such as block clubs, community gardens or other clubs or groups. Funding up to \$5,000 per project is available from Neighborhood Connections and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture. Neighborhood Connections can help you with your application. Grantseeker Workshops: Monday, February 3rd-6-8PM @ St. Rocco School, 3205 Fulton Road. Schedule a time to receive assistance by calling 216 615 7582 or attending the help session at Woodland Library on Saturday, February 1st from 11am to 2pm. For information and an application, go to <http://neighborhoodgrants.org/grants/application>. Proposals are due to the Neighborhood Connections office at Lin Omni Building Lobby, 3167 Fulton Road on February 14th before 5PM.

OHIO CITY

BRITE WINTER FEST is scheduled for February 15th from 4pm-11pm in the Market District of Ohio City. 70+ bands, 10 stages! For more information, check out <http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=715f65e17efca36b4414742bc&id=b1516f947c> or britewinter.com/

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY CARNEGIE WEST BRANCH is having its first Maker Program! Make Your Space: Floor Planning will be held on Saturday, February 1st at 11:00 a.m. Learn how you can reimagine spaces in homes, offices, and other areas using free online floor planning software. Discover the basics of interior design, including floor planning, color selection and room layout and use these concepts to form creative floor plans. Basic knowledge of computers, mouse use and internet use are required. Register by calling the Carnegie West Branch at 216-623-6927 or TechCentral at the downtown library at 216-623-2980.

RECYCLING

RECYCLING of compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) light bulbs, cellphones, inkjet printer cartridges and other items at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Seal CFLs in the provided plastic bags. Call the Recycling Coordinator about toner printer cartridges and other materials at 216/661-6500 x4508.

SENIORS

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (ICE) CELL PHONE SAFETY CAMPAIGN is sponsored by Visiting Angels, an in-home senior care agency, to help seniors who might slip and fall, or who might get lost, confused or stranded. To ICE a cell phone, you load emergency contacts in seniors' phones with the word ICE in front of the emergency contacts' names so when someone finds a senior in trouble they know who to call In Case of Emergency. For more information, contact Stacey Hilton at 919/459-8163

or stacey@visitingangels.com.

OHIO'S OUTSTANDING SENIOR VOLUNTEERS ages 65 and older will be honored by Salute to Senior Service program of Home Instead Senior Care. Nominations and votes will be accepted through March 1, 2014. The winner in each state will receive \$500 and one national winner will receive \$5,000 to donate to each winner's charity of choice. To learn about the 2013 outstanding senior volunteer from Ohio, go to www.SalutetoSeniorService.com.

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FREE TAX PREPARATION will be offered by the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-8:00 and Saturdays from 10:00-2:00. Many families will be eligible for refunds using the

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Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Make an appointment at <http://www.appointmentquest.com/scheduler/2140086824>. Want to help out? Anyone can sign up to become a volunteer. There is no experience necessary, just attend a Cuyahoga EITC Coalition led training to become certified. Sign up today by visiting <http://www.refundohio.org/>. **FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICES** will also be held at the Cuyahoga County site Westshore Neighborhood Family Service Center (NFSC) located at 9830 Lorain Ave, Cleveland Ohio 44102; the hours of service are Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. To schedule an appointment go online to www.211.org or call 211 for United Way First Call for Help. **OTHER FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICE CENTERS** can be found at www.211.org or by calling 211 for United Way First Call for Help.

TREMONT

TREMONT ARTWALK will be held Friday, February 14th and the second Friday of every month, all year, from 6 to 10 pm.

DUCK ISLAND has new development plans. Log on to <http://tremontwest.org/index/news-app?story=63> to review them and submit comments.

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| 3 LBS. LINK SAUSAGE | |
| 2 1/2 LBS. CHICKEN NUGGETS | |
| 5 LBS. CHICKEN TENDERS | |
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| 5 LBS. GROUND BEEF | 6 DELUXE PIZZAS |
| 2 1/2 LBS. CHICKEN NUGGETS | 2 LBS. POLISH BOYS |
| 8 STRIP STEAKS (3 LBS) | 3 LBS. LINK SAUSAGE |
| 10 LBS. CHICKEN LEG 1/4 | 1 LB. CORN BEEF |
| 24 EGG ROLLS | 5 LBS. SLICED AMERICAN CHEESE |
| 20 HASHBROWNS | |
| 1 LB. BACON (SLICED) | |
| 2 LBS. FRENCH TOAST | |

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| 8 BEEF LOIN BONE-IN STRIP STEAKS | 20 HASH BROWNS |
| 5 LBS. GROUND BEEF | 2 LBS. FRENCH TOAST |
| 5 LBS. CHICKEN TENDERS | 5 LBS. FRENCH FRIES |
| 2 1/2 LBS. CHICKEN NUGGETS | 1 LB. BEEF HOT DOGS |
| | 1 LB. SLICED CORN BEEF |

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