



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, May 6, 2014; Missing Persons Awareness Day on Seymour Ave: Irene Garcia releases a balloon saying she wants to show her support for those that were held captive here and express her appreciation of the strength they have shown. Garcia, who lives in the West Boulevard neighborhood near where Amanda Berry and Gina DeJesus were abducted, says, "If it were my girls, I know I would never give up looking. Gina's Mom gave me a lot of inspiration. I will admire her forever."

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Environmental cleanup planned for William C. Reed Playfields at W .15th and Denison

An environmental cleanup of the William C. Reed Playfields, a 12-acre park at W. 15th and Denison, will begin in mid-June and plans call for the cleanup to be completed by August. The United States Environmental Protection Agency made a presentation on cleanup plans at a May 20th Community Meeting held at St. Barbara's Church Hall at 1505 Denison. The park, on the north side

of Denison, is located just behind the Horizon Science Academy's Middle School and the Foster Pointe Apartments. Riverside Cemetery lies to the north of the park.

There are also some residential parcels adjacent to the park. The US EPA has thus far tested soil in the yards of thirty-five of those parcels and found PAH levels exceeded Ohio EPA residential standards at

23 of those parcels. An additional 36 residential parcels still need to be tested. The EPA will discuss cleanup with property owners.

W. C. Reed Park was closed in December of 2012 when City of Cleveland officials planning a park renovation tested the soil. Seventy percent of the soil samples from the park exceeded residential and industrial standards for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the soil. An informational bulletin handed out at the meeting by Ohio Department of Health says the "PAHs are released into the environment as the result of the incomplete burning of oil, tobacco, coal, wood, etc." The same bulletin says some PAHs are possibly carcinogenic to humans.

EPA officials say their review of the site indicated that there was once a 60 foot deep ravine where the park is now located. They believe the ravine was filled in, possibly with industrial debris, in the early 1900s. Below ground samples taken by the US EPA show some kind of

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, May 3, 2014; The Immigrant Justice Solidarity Rally and March organized by the Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network: Stewart Robinson is in the forefront carrying a sign saying "Liberation not Deportation" as supporters of immigrant rights begin a march from Market Square Park on W. 25th and Lorain Avenue, down W. 25th to Clark, down Clark to Fulton and back up Fulton to Lorain Avenue to the Catholic Worker Storefront at 42nd and Lorain Avenue. The demonstrators called for justice and compassion for immigrant families.

Ohio City Human Service organizations meet for monthly luncheon & community dialogue

For over two years now, the directors or staff representatives of Ohio City Human Service organizations have been meeting on a monthly basis. On the second Tuesday of each month, executive directors or staff representatives of the participating organizations meet to dialogue and listen to a speaker recruited to make a presentation on a topic of interest. A member organization hosts the event, and another member organization brings lunch for the participants.

Anita Cook, Executive Director of the West Side Catholic Center, said the group emerged from a larger group of all Ohio City nonprofit organizations that formed four years ago and has a large meeting once per year. Cook says the Human Service subgroup initially began

meeting to talk about services to the homeless population. Cook says many of the directors, working in the same neighborhood, had never met each other. They were able to work together in areas where they discovered they had overlapping services and coordinate the delivery of the same services at different locations on different days.

Cook says the organizations now cooperate in resource leveraging, sharing request for proposal information and information on other resources. They participate in quarterly educational events.

At the May Ohio City Human Services Dialogue hosted by Rev. Alan Harris at Franklin Circle Church, members dialogued with guest speaker Chuck Hoven, Managing

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Monday, May 19, 2014, Tremont West Development Corporation Annual Meeting, OLA St. Joseph Center, W. 14th and Kenilworth: Bob Shores receives the Keith Sulzer Partner of the Year Award from Tremont West Development Corporation Executive Director Cory Riordan. Shores serves as Co-Chair of the Second District Police Community Relations Committee. The new award was named in honor of former Second District Police Commander Keith Sulzer.

TWDC celebrates annual meeting – shares goals for upcoming year

Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC) held its annual meeting on May 19th at the OLA St. Joseph Center on W. 14th and Kenilworth. Residents and stakeholders attending the meeting received a copy of TWDC's 2013-14 Annual Report. The report celebrates some of the community's accomplishments over the past year and looks to plans for the upcoming year.

In the report, outgoing TWDC Board President Susan Coy and TWDC Executive Director Cory Riordan spoke of the four-year strategic plan the organization is currently

implementing. Coy and Riordan said, "Our Strategic Plan indicates our need to spread the brand and investment to all corners of the neighborhood and ensure that we have a well-connected, sustainable and attractive community for years to come."

Coy and Riordan went on to outline some of the projects the organization expects to see completed in the next year "Fairmont Creamery, Scranton Road Historic District receiving national designation, the West 11th Street-12th Street Pathway, Tremont Montessori Pervious Pav-

ing and Bioswale, A Christmas Story House Neighborhood Restoration Program, and progress on creating a bikable and more neighborhood oriented West 14th Street."

The annual report lists TWDC's revenue for the fiscal year that ended in June of 2013 as \$1,138,489; the expenditures for the same time period were listed as \$915,699.

TWDC members present at the meeting elected Lynn McLaughlin Murray as Board President. Seven members were also elected to serve two year terms on the TWDC Board of Directors: Kate Carden, Cynthia Chiplis, Robert Flanagan, Hansal Patel, Ann Marie Riley, Richard Sosenko and Josh Zielaskiewicz.



PHOTO BY PAUL JEFFREY FOR UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

April 26, 2014; United Methodist Women's Assembly, Kentucky International Convention Center, Louisville, Kentucky: Hillary Rodham Clinton greets 13-year old Christina Robinson and other members of the Summer of Sisterhood, a musical group from the Westside Community House in Cleveland, Ohio. Clinton, a lifelong member of United Methodist Church, spoke to participants at the assembly. West Side Community House has roots in the Methodist community. While the organization is now a nonsectarian nonprofit social service agency, it was founded as the Methodist Deaconess Home of Cleveland in 1890.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WEST SIDE COMMUNITY HOUSE
 Friday, May 9, 2014, West Side Community House, 9300 Lorain Avenue: Sherwin Williams' volunteers and Senior Center members who participated in the Best Costume Awards at the Luau de Mayo. Sherwin Williams' volunteers served as the judges in the contest. Volunteers also helped with the games, interacted with seniors, led line dances, brought crafts and helped with crafts. Seventy Sherwin Williams volunteers came to West Side Community House: one group helped paint the upstairs rooms and offices; and another group helped with the Luau de Mayo in the Senior Center.

Correction
 In the May 2013 Plain Press we incorrectly identified the speaker at the Committee of 500 Years of Dignity and Resistance's Opening Day Protest March. The speaker, featured in a photo on page 3, is Philip Yenyo, Executive Director of the American Indian Movement of Ohio.

ADULT EDUCATION/JOB TRAINING
FREE GED PREPARATION is available through Seeds of Literacy at 3104 West 25th, 3rd Floor (near Clark Ave.). One-to-one tutoring, computer training, learn at your own pace in a relaxed atmosphere. Call 216/661-7950 to enroll or visit www.seedsofliteracy.org

PHARMACY TECH TRAINING available. Individuals 18 years of age or older may qualify for 38 weeks of quality academic and clinical training to become a Pharmacy Tech. No previous healthcare or pharmacy experience required. Scholarships provided for all accepted into the program. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must pass a complete fingerprint background check. Apply online at www.newbridgecleveland.org/adult-application-pharmtech.
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The Plain Press Community Board is a listing of various free activities and resources for neighborhoods served by the Plain Press. It is sponsored by Organize! Ohio through donations from readers and supporters.

Learningexpressllc.com or contact your library.

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE offers diverse academic and job training courses. Visit <http://www.tri-c.edu/>.

ARTS AND CULTURE
FROM DRAMA TO SEWING, the Cultural Learning Arts Performing Program is offering a variety of FREE Saturday classes for families at Mega Church in the Metro Clark/Tremont area at 3170 Scranton Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109. Participants will also have the opportunity to take field trips, showcase their work and more. For class schedule and registration, contact (216) 202-0784.

MICRO ART SPACES – art exhibitions, short-term artists residencies, art education workshops – are available at 78th Street Studios. Visit www.MicroArtSpace.com for more information.

BIRDS
A BIRD FEEDER AND BATH BUILDING class will be offered at Zone Recreation Center on Saturday, June 14th at 11am. Construct and personalize a bird house for your yard from an empty 2 liter container. Build and paint a birdbath from planters and saucers. For all ages. Email Anna at kiwie.ecovillage@gmail.com if you want to attend so they can collect the appropriate supplies. Refreshments provided.

INFANTS AND CHILDREN
 Because of the **PROBLEM OF INFANT MORALITY AMONG BLACK BABIES**, the Cleveland Department of Public Health & the Cuyahoga County Board of Health have joined a state-wide

initiative to improve birth outcomes and reduce racial disparities in infant mortality. For more information, call Cleveland Moms First Project at 216/664-4194; the Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative (OIMRI) at 216/231-7700; and Help Me Grow at 216/698-7500.

BOOT CAMP FOR NEW DADS is held several times a month at MetroHealth. This program is for dads only and is taught by certified coaches, male instructors skilled in baby care. It is a one day three hour course in a relaxed and comfortable setting. Breakfast or lunch will be provided. Call 216/778-3381 for more information.

CUSTODY/VISITATION assistance available to help mothers and fathers in establishing parenting plans. Learn how to file for custody or parenting time. Printout forms from ja.cuyahogacounty.us; click on the "Office on Mediation" on the left hand side of the website. Or call 216/698-4996 or visit 9300 Quincy Ave. 2nd floor. Hours are Monday-Friday 9AM to 1PM and 2PM to 4PM.

EARLY HEAD START AND HEAD START PROGRAMS of the Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland serve children from 6 weeks to five years old. Head Start is a national program that offers an excellent pre-school education as well as services in nutrition, health, social services, mental health & disabilities and parent involvement for children and families. Call 216/589-9922 for information or to enroll your child.

EVERY CHILD READY TO READ: Libraries have many resources to help you talk, sing, read, write and play with your children to help them get ready to read. Log onto www.everychildreadytoread.org or visit your local library.

FREE IMMUNIZATIONS for children are available at Thomas F. McCafferty Health Center at 4242 Lorain Ave. every Monday from 8AM to 11AM and every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 4 PM to 7 PM. Call 216/664-6603.

LEAD POISONING is caused by swallowing or inhaling lead from painted surfaces, and from contaminated water, soil and food. Young children face the greatest risks. Lead can even harm an infant in the mother's womb. For more information, contact the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program of the Cleveland Department of Public Health at 216/664-2175, or contact the National Lead Information Center at www.epa.gov/lead or 1-800/424-5323.

SUMMER MEALS are available at Recreation Centers and other sites. Call 1-866-3-HUNGRY or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (for Spanish

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W. 25th Street gallery given ample time to comply with law prior to liquor inspection

by Henry Senyak

In the past few weeks you may have read in the *Plain Dealer* and *Cleveland Scene* articles and opinions regarding a liquor inspection by State of Ohio Department of Public Safety agents at the Loren Naji Gallery. The gallery is located at 2138 West 25th Street. Some stories were balanced some were not and failed at the core to explain how many attempts by City of Cleveland police officers, and building inspectors occurred to inform the owner of his non-compliance. Most stories seem to paint the gallery owner as a victim of over zealous enforcement by city and state officials.

Another perspective on the request for team inspections for the building located at 2138 West 25th Street is that of citizens, police and city officials who have attempted to gain the gallery's compliance to city and state ordinances. Concerned residents in the Ohio City Community contacted me in 2013 on issues concerning the Loren Naji Gallery stemming from the Brite Winter Festival. This was a community event that has been held in Ohio City since 2012. These residents also contacted then Commander Keith Sulzer of the Second District Cleveland Police. (A team inspection is when the City and State coordinate resources with different departments to inspect a premise for compliance of local codified ordinances and Ohio Revised Code.)

COMMENTARY

Commander Sulzer on March 12th, 2013 sent an email to Ohio City Inc. and copied Councilman Joe Cimperman over issues at the Loren Naji Gallery. I was sent a copy because some of the residents have contacted me too.

Here is Commander Sulzer's email to Ohio City Inc:

ALL,
I RECEIVED SOME COMPLAINTS ABOUT THIS LOCATION FROM OHIO CITY RESIDENTS AND SOUTH OF LORAIN BLOCK CLUB MEMBERS. APPARENTLY THIS STUDIO IS HAVING CONCERTS, EVENTS, WITH ALCOHOL. I DON'T REMEMBER SIGNING OFF ON ANY PERMITS FOR ALCOHOL. THE COMPLAINTS ARE THAT THERE MAY BE A COVER CHARGE, ALCOHOL BEING SERVED, OVERCROWDING, OPEN CONTAINER, IMPROPER PERMITS, ZONING VIOLATIONS, ETC. REPORTEDLY, AFTER OR DURING THE BRITE WINTER FEST, PATRONS OF THIS STUDIO WERE DRINKING IN THE VOSS

PARKING LOT. CAN YOU SET UP A MEETING WITH THESE PEOPLE, OR AT LEAST GIVE ME SOME INSIGHT ON WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

THANKS, KEITH.

This email was the start. According to Loren Naji's Facebook pages he had opened the building as a public gallery in 2011. Since the March 12th 2013 email, the former Second District Commander, his Vice Detectives, and officers, either have visited and/or contacted Loren Naji at least six times or warned him what he was doing was not legal. Former Commander Sulzer had warned him personally that he could not have all these people inside the building and block fire exits. Naji has made handbills promoting his live entertainment. This is what nightclubs do to get business.

Loren Naji has given interviews that he did not know anything about needing a temporary liquor permit. But public records attained from the State shown that Naji had signed a permit tenancy application for the local non-profit Land Studio for the premise at 2138 West 25th. This was for 2013 Brite Winter Festival. Commander Sulzer sent one of his officers to speak with Loren Naji the week prior to the 2014 Brite Winter Festival. Naji told the officer that he attained the proper 2014 temporary permit, just like last year. Naji showed the document to the officer, the officer did not bother to look at the dates. Naji showed the officer the expired permit for 2013. Public records show that no temporary permit was requested or issued for the address in 2014.

More of the same issues of overcrowding and other complaints came out of the Brite Festival and 2138 West 25th this year. So I sent emails to City and State officials requesting team inspections. The City of Cleveland Building and Housing (B&H) took immediate action. My emails showed evidence, and copied and linked to web pages and Facebook accounts. B&H Inspectors tried to gain access on March 5th 2014. Records show B&H issued a violation for illegal use on March 6th. On two separate occasions the B&H Department had tried to gain access without cooperation and then on April 21st sent a prosecution packet submitted to the Cleveland Law Department. Naji is now scheduled to appear in Housing Court on June 3rd 2014 regarding the illegal use charges. (2138 West 25th does not have a legal use as a gallery or entertainment venue).

Here are some Facebook - Social Media Excerpts on May 2nd or prior:

Bob Peck (Graffiti Tagger that was the artist appearing at the gallery the night of the inspection): "There will be live music, drinks and snacks. (And of course, our art.) There is no cover/door charge or anything like that but donations are appreciated for drinks".

"If you've never been to a gallery continued on page 4



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, May 1, 2014, Megan Meister Moves On Party, Los Dos Fronteras, 3292 Fulton Road: (L-R) Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization Executive Director Jeff Ramsey, Ward 15 Councilman Matt Zane, Megan Meister, Ward 14 Councilman Brian Cummins, and Ward 12 Councilman Anthony Brancatelli. Friends of Megan Meister gathered to wish her well as she takes on a new job doing community engagement for Neighborhood Family Practice. Meister has served as the managing director of the Stockyard Clark Fulton Brooklyn Center Community Development Office since its' opening in July of 2010.

Springtime brings transitions for several community organizations and individuals

Springtime is proving to be a time of transition for many of those who work to provide services to residents of Cleveland's Westside neighborhoods.

Cleveland Mediation

After over three decades with the Cleveland Mediation Center, long time Executive Director Dan Joyce will be retiring at the end of June. During his tenure at Cleveland Mediation Center (CMC), Joyce has successfully shepherded CMC through a number of major shifts in programming and funding. "We have fulfilled CMC's mandate in large part because of Dan's many skills and his dogged determination that the organization make a demonstrable difference in the lives of the people of Cleveland," said Patrick Coy, Vice President of CMC's Board of Directors.

The Cleveland Mediation Board of Directors has appointed a new executive director, Kathleen Jackson. She comes to CMC from Senior Citizen Resources in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood. Jackson has a Masters of Arts Degree from Kent State University (KSU) in Liberal Studies with concentrations in Nonprofit Management, Conflict

Management, and EcoVillage Development. She also has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Applied Conflict Management from KSU.

Joyce will stay with Cleveland Mediation and work with the new director for a month to aid in the transition.

Stockyard, Clark-Fulton and Brooklyn Centre

Megan Meister, who has served as managing director of the Stockyard, Clark-Fulton, Brooklyn Centre Community Development Office since its inception in July of 2010, and prior to that worked as a community organizer in the Stockyard neighborhood, will be taking a new job at Neighborhood Family Practice. Meister will be working on creating opportunities for community outreach, collaboration and community programing for Neighborhood Family Practice. Neighborhood Family Practice has clinics in the Stockyard, Detroit Shoreway, Tremont and Bellaire Puritas neighborhoods.

Meister's decision to move on has spurred some additional changes. Detroit Shoreway Community De-

velopment Organization (DSCDO) Executive Director Jeff Ramsey will assume responsibilities for the day-to-day management of the Stockyard, Clark-Fulton, Brooklyn Centre (SCFBC) neighborhood office while continuing to serve as the executive director of DSCDO. Ramsey says he plans to move into the Lin Omni Center office of SCFBC on Fulton Avenue and work out of there.

Ramsey hopes he can use his experience in real estate development to help to create additional investment in the neighborhood as MetroHealth plans to invest a half billion in remaking its campus on W. 25th and the new \$50 million Max Hayes High School comes online at W. 65th and Walworth.

Detroit Shoreway

As part of this transition, Ramsey has hired Jenny Spencer as man-

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, May 9, 2014; Jean Brandt Gallery, 1028 Kenilworth: (L-R) Artist Phoebe Nelson, gallery owner Jean Brandt and artist Bruno Casiano. Jean Brandt hosts the last opening at her art gallery. The gallery will hold a farewell party at the closing reception of the current show, *Constant Background* -- new prints by Bruce Edwards, on Friday, June 13th during the monthly Tremont Art Walk. Brandt, a co-founder of the Tremont Art Walk, has decided to close her gallery after 24 years to devote more time to her law practice. Brandt plans to continue to help coordinate the monthly Tremont Art Walk.

W. 25TH STREET GALLERY INSPECTION

continued from page 3

opening, don't let it scare ya'. It's like a party with some sweet ass art on the walls."

Loren Naji (Property owner of record for 2138 West 25th Street): "It's FREE! But we greatly appreciate a \$2 donation." "I'm being loose with my vocab here. It's actually just a beer pit."

Dave Segruie: "That's the coolest Beer Pit I've ever seen--better selection than World of Beer!!"

Now comes May 2nd 2014, Councilman Joe Cimperman sent a text to me that he contacted Cleveland Police Department (CPD), and later called me that day to say he spoken with the Law Department and CPD Vice. CPD Vice arrives at the gallery and issues another stern warning. The State agents then arrive and issue a cease and desist order, and further charges in a summons at a later date. Councilman Cimperman was well aware of issues since March 2013, so was Ohio City Incorporated (OCI).

The State removed close to \$700 in alcohol products, mostly beer. This is not a wine and cheese event as reported. Granted almost every gallery in the state has served a small glass of alcohol product for an opening. Most art

galleries operate within a box and do not advertise or put pictures on social media showing 100's of beers cooling in a huge ice chest, live entertainment etc. Over 50% of the public pictures on the Loran Naji Studio Gallery Facebook page show people drinking and live bands versus the showing of the talents of artists. Most galleries do not do this as they are in business to promote and sell art.

Public pictures, and You Tube videos also show that on the occasions Naji has had live entertainment, his establishment is overcrowded. Pictures show blocked fire exits, no illuminated exit signs within the front of the gallery, drapes hanging near firewall's to project live electronica imagery along with the live bands performing with all the buildings lights turned off. Other pictures show flammable chairs and couches used for seats. All of this could lead to a catastrophic event. This is not a typical gallery. The Facebook page lists it as "Art and Entertainment". Matter of fact you cannot just have live entertainment performances at a business. Such entertainment is not permitted within 500 feet of a residential district. Neighbors denied the building right next door, the former Envy lounge, an entertainment variance in 2006. Since then it was closed and

torn down.

The main issue here is the obtaining a proper certificate of occupancy and required permits. There is a necessity to have a fire protection system and sprinkler system installed to legally hold events with more than 99 patrons, and to follow local and state law. Please take a moment to think about the Station Nightclub fire in Rhode Island that killed 100 people. This business needs to adhere to the current fire code adopted by the State of Ohio.

So, with that said, do you think this is just a vendetta from one person? Laws are in place to protect the public. Most citizens walk into any retail space or place of assembly thinking that proprietor has all his permits in place, and proper fire protection in place to protect the public's safety.

It is a shame that Loren Naji has made this an issue for everyone, this is an issue only for Loren Naji, he has brought this on himself, and he is now convincing his colleagues to fight his legal battles for him. Other businesses did everything right and either have proper building permits and certificates of occupancy, or find non-profit partners to pull liquor permits to legally serve alcohol at an event held in a gallery.

Bars and restaurants have to spend tens of thousands of dollars for fire protection with less people that Naji had in his building. They have to pay well over twenty five thousand to get a legit liquor permit. How fair is this to law abid-

OHIO CITY HUMAN SERVICES

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Editor of the Plain Press. They talked about how to submit free events for listings in the Plain Press Community Board. Discussed some of issues currently being covered by the Plain Press. Members also pitched some story ideas and shared news of upcoming events and new programs.

Kerry McCormack, Director of Community Affairs for Ohio City Incorporated shared information about how the Department of Education of Miami University is working with Ohio City Inc. on a project to help train teachers to work in urban schools. The goal of the program is for education students to learn from the community to become better teachers. The teacher education students will be connecting with parents and community members and learning about the needs of students and families in the school communities of Paul Dunbar, Urban Community School, Metro Catholic School and Near West Intergenerational School.

At the June Ohio City Human Services Dialogue hosted by Providence House Executive Director Natalie Leek-Nelson the guest speaker was Cynthia Ries, Executive Director of Community Shares.

Ries talked about workplace giving campaigns and costs and benefits of becoming a Community Shares member organization. Two Ohio City Human Services organizations that are members of Community Shares, Providence House and Cogswell Hall, shared their experience as members of Community Shares, how they collect the necessary volunteer points required of members, and how being a member has helped with their budget.

Ohio City Human Services organizations present at the meeting, but not members of Community Shares, also shared information about the services they provide giving Ries an idea of the range of services the groups provide.

John Gill, Director of the St. Ignatius High School Arrupe Neighborhood Partnership talked about Arrupe House's after school and summer programs for neighborhood youth as well as its homeless outreach services.

A May Dugan staff member shared information about its services involving education, food, clothing and community counseling.

Executive Director Anita Cook of the West Side Catholic Center mentioned the organization's drop in center and transition in place services for homeless women and their children.

Malachi Center shared information about their shower program for the homeless and afterschool and summer programs for youth.

Lutheran Family Services noted the organization provides mental health counseling.

Rev. Alan Harris of Franklin Circle Christian Church spoke of the church's ministry involving outreach programs, clothing distribution, community meals and food bags and youth enrichment programs.

Paul Finley, Executive Director of St. Herman's House of Hospitality shared information about the meals served, grocery bags distributed to families with dependent children and its men's shelter.

In addition to the monthly dialogue, the Ohio City Human Services Collaborative has printed a Ohio City Human Services Reference Guide which list 16 member organizations and the services they provide. Member organizations listed include: Centers for Families and Children at St. Patrick's Church, Cogswell Hall, Franklin Circle Christian Church, Lutheran Family Services, May Dugan Center, Metanoia Project, Providence House, St. Herman's House of Hospitality, St. Ignatius/Arrupe Neighborhood Partnership, St. Malachi Center, St. Malachi Church, Stella Maris, St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Patrick Church, Transitional Housing Inc., and the West Side Catholic Center.

The Ohio City Human Services Collaborative will hold their next dialogue luncheon at May Dugan Center on Tuesday June 10th. The group will not have a dialogue luncheon in July or August. In July they will participate in a neighborhood education committee happy hour at Light Bistro on July 24th. In August Ohio City Human Services is planning a back to school backpack giveaway for August 8th.

Editor's Note: Ohio City Human Services organizations interested in participating in the collaborative can call Anita Cook at West Side Catholic Center at 216-631-4741, ext. 102.

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Bound for Gordon Square, Near West Theatre stages big musical farewell to its 36-year home

It all started in 1978 with 13 teens, an \$800 budget, a young director named Stephanie Morrison-Hrbek and a production of *Godspell* in the St. Patrick Catholic Church Club Building in Ohio City. Near West Theatre has grown and grown since then and is headed for a new home in the Gordon Square Arts District. But not without one last musical goodbye to the quirky, magical space that has housed the theater for 36 years.

Sixty-six cast members of all ages will stage an original production, *Move On!*, June 13-29 in the venerable ballroom at 3606 Bridge Ave. Artistic Director Bob Navis Jr. and the actors are filling this 90-minute one-act with reflections and music, plus projected pictures and video, that evoke the healing, transformative power of theater, and of NWT's special impact and way of building relationships. Tickets can be purchased at www.nearwesttheatre.org or by calling the box office at 216-961-6391 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays. Reserved Star Seats with special benefits are \$20; general admission is \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under.

The show's music, intimacy, and fun are designed to be enjoyed even by Near West newcomers. But it will undeniably also be "a festival of memory, honor, song and circle" that honors "the place, the home, that brought so many of us together," Navis says. Over the years, 116 NWT shows have brought thousands of volunteer actors, backstage personnel and front-of-house helpers, not to mention tens of thousands of audience members, to a third-floor walk-up whose challenges include no air conditioning and a tiny dressing room. Audience members are invited to stay after every performance of *Move On!* to mingle and share refreshments and memories. At about 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 29, after the closing matinee, the community is invited to encircle the building for an outdoor farewell ceremony.

A new venue for Near West is under construction at West 67th Street and Detroit Avenue, thanks to the Gordon Square Arts District capital campaign, a collaboration involving Near West, Cleveland Public Theatre, and Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization. The 275-seat theater is scheduled for "substantial completion" in December 2014, to be followed by many weeks of installing theatrical equipment and seating. In early 2015, Near West Theatre hopes to hold a sneak-peak gala. In the meantime, it will stage its fall 2014 programs, soon to be announced, at other locations.

Near West Theatre is grateful for ongoing programmatic support from the Ohio Arts Council, Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, and Greater Cleveland Community Shares.

Perkins, Scott Pyle, Skipper Rankin, Eric Reising, Michelle Robinson Kennedy, Akeem Rollins, Stellina Scacco, Andy Schumann, Grace Schumann, CoCo Smith, Trinidad Snider, Gwen Stemberge, Cole Tarantowski, Christine Thompson, Jordan Thompson, Nora van Lier, Kyanie Vasquez, Rafael Velez III, Colin Wheeler, Jennifer White, Anthony Williams, Morgan Williams, Bob Zombar.

Near West Theatre Production Staff:

Director and Musical Director: Bob Navis Jr. **Assistant Musical Director:** Jordan Cooper. **Assistant Director:** Kelcie Dugger. **Choreographer:** Stephanie Morrison-Hrbek. **Technical Director and Production Manager:** Josh Padgett. **Assistant Technical Director and Video Designer:** Perren Hedderston. **Stage Manager and Assistant Production Manager:** Ryan Wolf. **Scenic and Properties Designer:** Laura Carlson Tarantowski. **Assistant Stage Managers:** Roderick Cardwell, Alexa Jones. **Lighting Co-Designers:** Mike Stein, Rob Wachala. **Costume Designer:** David Glowe. **Sound Designer:** Joshua Caraballo. **Properties Mistress:** Jessica Rosenlieb. **Properties Assistant:** Kate Atherton. **Scenic Artist:** Jen Hitmar-Shankland.



PHOTO BY TERRY SCHORDOCK/NEAR WEST THEATRE

Wednesday, May 14, 2014; Near West Theatre rehearsal for *Move On!* at St. Patrick's Club Building, 3606 Bridge Avenue: The staff and most of the cast of "Move On!" as they prepare for the last Near West Theatre performances at the St. Patrick's Club Building. The performance will run from June 13 to 29th. For more information visit www.nearwesttheatre.org or call the box office at 216-961-6391.

Performance Listing: Near West Theatre. St. Pat's Club Building, 3606 Bridge Ave., Cleveland. 216-961-6391 or www.nearwesttheatre.org. "Move On!" June 13, 14, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28 at 7:30 p.m.; June 22 and 29 at 3 p.m. Star Seat, \$20; regular tickets, \$10 adults, \$8 ages 12 and under.

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Move On! Cast:

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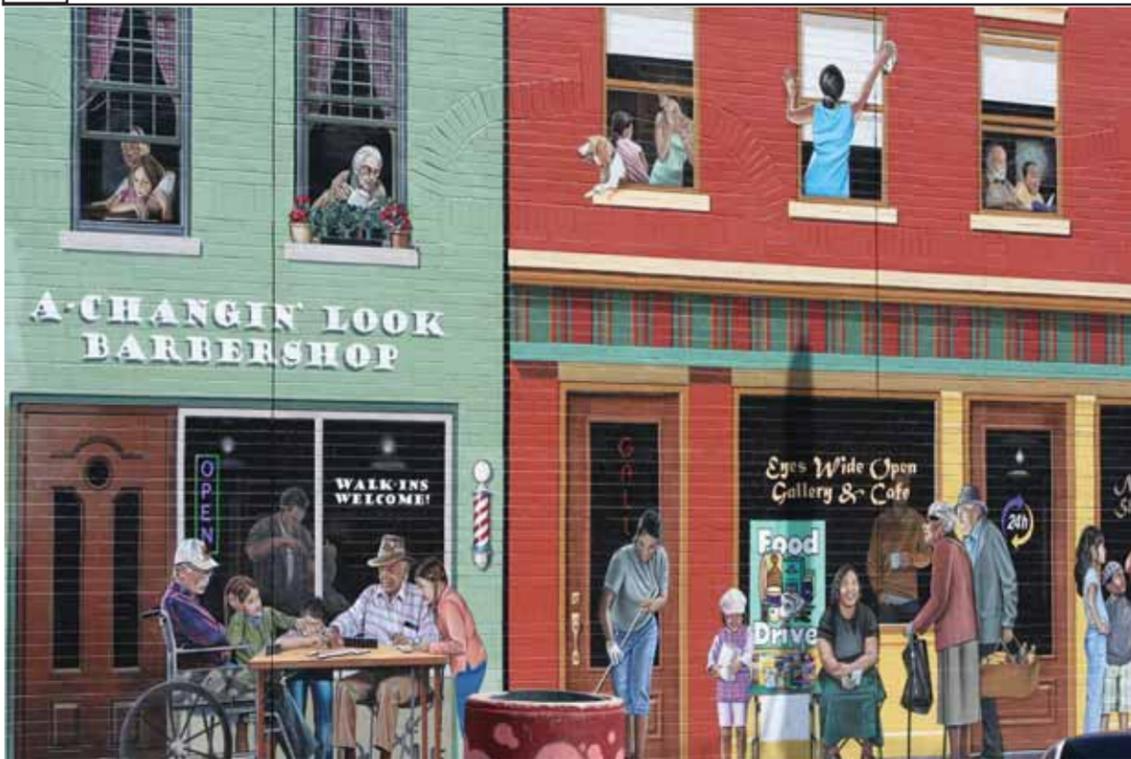


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, May 3, 2014; Mural: *It's up to us*, 2512 Clark Avenue: In an August 2012 article published in *The Tremont*, a Tremont newspaper, artist John Rivera-Resto, who designed the mural, describes how the work, titled *It's up to us*, began in June of 2012. That summer, high school students participating in the City of Cleveland Bureau of Cultural Arts' Mural My Neighborhood program went through rigorous training in order to help with the ambitious project. In *The Tremont* article, Rivera-Resto described the work as "a highly detailed, two thousand square foot mural." Work continued on the project last summer. Staff, of the medical office building where the mural is located, said they expect work toward completion of the mural will continue as soon as the weather permits.

W. C. REED PLAYFIELDS
continued from page one

slag/cinder material. Forty residents attending the May 20th meeting learned that the US EPA cleanup plan calls for removal of about two feet of soil. Once the soil is removed a semi porous fabric will be set down. Next about a foot and a half of clay soil will be put down, followed by six inches of topsoil. EPA officials said the soil excavation may be deeper in some areas to make sure city workers are not contaminated when they start a \$350,000 planned renovation of the park putting in ball diamonds and other park and playground features following the environmental cleanup. The plans presented by the US EPA call for the removal of most of the trees in the park. After the meeting, a number of residents expressed disappointment via Facebook concerning massive removal of trees proposed in the plan. At prior community meetings residents requested that more trees be saved. EPA officials estimated that the cleanup of the park would cost \$2.4

million. They estimate the residential cleanup will range from .8 to 1.5 million. The US EPA will cover the cost of the cleanup. They hope to finish testing the residential parcels in June and July of this year and begin cleanup of the residential properties in September once the park cleanup is finished. EPA officials expect he cleanup of the residential properties, replacement of soil, reseeding and landscaping to be completed by June of 2015. Officials said the residential cleanup would involve exterior yards only. There will be no reason for workers to be given access to anyone's home. EPA officials promised air monitoring of the site during the cleanup and said they would shut down the site if particulate matter exceeded allowable levels. The property will be graded and water flow will be controlled to limit areas of sitting water in the park. **Editor's Note:** Residents or stakeholders having questions about the park or residential cleanup can call Ginny Narsete, US EPA Community Involvement Coordinator at 312-886-4259, or email her at narsete.virginia@epa.gov.

Scam targets area churches and businesses

Sister Judith at St. Rocco's parish wants to alert area businesses and churches about a scam that is targeting local churches and businesses. She said the scam involves someone calling a company or a church and telling them their baby is sick, or they need a home or apartment and a sister or priest from a nearby parish said they should ask the business or church for a donation to help. When St. Rocco received a request for a donation, the person told them a priest at Ascension Parish in Lakewood sent them. A call to

Ascension revealed that no such request had been made. Ascension Parish reported other people had reported being solicited for funds in this manner by someone using their parish name. In another incident, a person came to an Auto Repair Company in the St. Rocco neighborhood and said that "Sister Mary" from St. Rocco had told them to ask the company for a donation to help their family. The business gave the person \$45, but then called St. Rocco to find out no such request had come from the parish.

Theft of metal gates reported in First and Second Police districts

Residents reported thefts of backyard metal gates – popped right off their hinges and taken from backyards. The thefts were reported in the middle of May from yards with back alleys. After a report on the Second District Police Community Relations Committee Facebook page – a woman urged police to check area scrapyards.

In the First Police District, residents of W. 84th Street between Brinsmade and Clark Avenue reported thefts of backyard metal gates. The gates were stolen from the back fences along alleys between W. 84th and W. 82nd and between W. 84th and W. 86th. The rear garden gate at the Bigelow Community Garden Site was spared because it had a lock on it, said residents.

VISIT THE PLAIN PRESS ONLINE:
www.plainpress.org



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, May 9, 2014; Tremont Montessori Art Show: A mural by Tremont Montessori Preschool Class of 2011-12 created under the direction of Artist in Residence Wendy Mahon of Young Audiences. Students created the figure of an elephant to represent a character in the story *Elmer* by David McKee.

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COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

speakers) and a live operator will tell you where the sites that are closest to you that serve free, nutritious summer meals.

CLEVELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT CLEVELAND TRANSFORMATION ALLIANCE provides information on the almost 160 district and public charter schools serving grades preK-12. Because Cleveland schools have citywide enrollment, parents can choose the school their children attend. Visit clevelandta.org, find the Cleveland Transformation Alliance on Facebook or call 211 for 24/7 assistance.

FREE KINDERGARTEN is available for Cleveland children who will be 5 years old by Sept. 30, 2014. Children who will be 4 years old on or before Sept. 30, 2014 may be eligible for free pre-kindergarten. Call the Cleveland Metropolitan School District at 216/838-3675. Families that speak a language other than English and/or have children with special needs (ages 3 and up) should call these offices in order to be referred for assessment and registration: the Multilingual Multicultural Education Center at 216/404-5159 or Special Education at 216/838-7733.

OPEN HOUSES WITH SCENARIOS ABOUT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S \$1 BILLION CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION PLAN will be held. Share your opinions. On June 4, the **Detroit Shoreway-Cudell-Edgewater** cluster meeting will be held at Cudell Recreation Center (1910 West Boulevard, 5:30 – 7:30 PM). On June 10, the **Old Brooklyn-Brooklyn Centre** cluster meeting is scheduled for the Cleveland MetroParks Zoo, Reinberger Education Center (5:30 – 7:30 PM, 5500 Wildlife Way). On June 11, the **Clark Fulton-Stockyards** meeting will be held at Lincoln West High School (3202 W. 30th Street, 5:30 – 7:30 PM). The **Cluster 02 Jefferson SPA (Statistical Planning Area)** session will be held at Almira School (3325 W. 99th Street, on June 16 at 7:30 – 9:00 PM). On June 19, both the **Tremont and the Ohio City** cluster meetings will be held at Tremont Montessori (2409 West 10th Street, 5:00 – 6:30 PM) and the Paul L. Dunbar School (2200 W. 28th Street, 7:30 – 9:00 PM) respectively. (The **Kamm's-Bellaire-Puritas** meeting was held before this issue of the Plain Press was published.) For more information before the meetings, visit bit.ly/Sp7U6J online.

CRIME
VICTIMS OF CRIME may qualify for compensation. For more information, contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office at 800/582-2877 or log onto www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Victim.

ENTERTAINMENT
THE 27TH ANNUAL CLIFTON ARTS AND MUSICFEST will be held on Saturday, June 21st from 10 AM – 6 PM on Clifton Boulevard. Delicious food, Weber's Ice Cream, retailer specials, kid's events, art, and live music.

SUMMER EVENTS AT EDGEWATER. On the Edge family activities (recreation demos, sandcastle building competition, live entertainment, food) and **Your Parks, Your Stories: Cleveland Metroparks Memories at Edgewater:** both on June 14 from 3-9 PM. **Edgewater Live** on Thursdays 5:30 PM to 8 PM from June 12 – August 14 (weekly live music and food trucks). Go to clevelandmetroparks.com for the most up-to-date list of events.

LEARN ABOUT COMMUNITY EVENTS, SERVICES and how to get involved by talking to a representative of the Stockyard, Clark-Fulton & Brooklyn Centre Community Development Office at your local Cleveland Public Library during the scheduled times. Fulton Branch: 1st Tuesday of the month from 11:30am-1:30pm. Brooklyn Branch- 4th Friday of the month from 3:00pm-5:00pm.

TRINITY UMC STRAWBERRY FESTIVALS. Two opportunities to enjoy strawberry pies, strawberry shortcake and ice cream at 9900 Madison Avenue, adjacent to Cudell Commons and Cleveland Fire Station Engine Company 23. Wednesday, June 11th from 5:30 - 7 PM or Wednesday, July 9th from 5:30 - 7 PM. Enjoy on site or take home.

FAMILY HISTORY
GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH CLINIC at the Cleveland Public Library, Main Library, History and Geography Department, 6th Floor, Louis Stokes Wing, 525 Superior Avenue,

NE on Saturday, June 14. Beginners should arrive at 10:45AM. All others can arrive at any time between 10:30 and 1:30PM. Clinics end at 2PM. Free and open to all. No registration. For more information, call 216/623-2864.

FOOD
THE CLEVELAND FOOD BANK helps in obtaining food stamps (SNAP), medical, utility, child care, WIC and other assistance programs if your monthly gross income is \$1211 (for a one-person household) to \$2927 (for a five-person household). Apply over the phone at 216/738-2067 or toll free at 1-855/738-2067 Monday to Friday from 9AM to 4PM.

HEALTH CARE
HIV-POSITIVE INDIVIDUALS who are newly diagnosed or who are not currently accessing HIV/AIDS care can receive short-term, intensive support from the Linkage to Care (LTC) Program. LTC Coordinators work with clients to identify and address barriers to entering medical care. Contact Pat Smith at 216/778-5483 or Miriam Ampeire at 216/778-5543, or email psmith1@metrohealth.org or mampeire@metrohealth.org.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CLINIC is available at the Thomas F. McCafferty Center, 4242 Lorain Ave., Room 233. Protect yourself and your partner from diseases passed from person to person by sexual contact, access Pap Smears, take pregnancy tests, and obtain family planning services. Sliding fee scale based on income. Appointments are encouraged. For more information and hours, call 216/664-6603.

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FREE OR LOW COST HEALTH COVERAGE is still available if you meet income guidelines: if you earn less than \$16,105 as a single person or less than \$32,913 as a family of four you may be eligible. Meet with a navigator at the Thomas F. McCafferty Health Center. Call 216-206-6407 for an appointment or email abraham@chapohio.org. Carolyn is available Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also call 2-1-1 First Call for Help to find local help near you, or apply online or over the phone: Medicaid (Ohio) – www.benefits.ohio.gov – or call 1-800-324-8680.

HEALTH RESEARCH STUDIES
AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN who have had a stroke or TIA (mini-stroke) within the last 12 months and who have a care partner who is willing to attend the sessions with the participant are eligible to participate. The research project is designed to help men learn about risk factors and how to best take care of their health after a stroke or TIA. Participants will be randomly assigned to 1 of two groups; some participants will not receive special education, but all participants will receive a stipend for research assessments done during the study. For more information, call John Harvis-Bey at 216/368-5723. Sponsored by University Hospitals and Case Western Reserve University.

PEOPLE DIAGNOSED WITH BIPOLAR DISORDER who sometimes miss doses of their medications and are 18 years of age or older may be eligible for a research study. Study participants will be engaged in psychological assessments and personal education sessions, and will receive compensation for their study visit. For more information, call the Research Assistant at 888/819-0004 or email Effectiveness.Research@UHhospitals.org. Sponsored by the Department of Psychiatry at University Hospitals.

INDIVIDUALS DIAGNOSED WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA OR SCHIZOPHRETTIC DISORDER who have been homeless within the past year, who sometimes miss doses of medications and who are 18 years of age or older may be eligible to participate. Study participants will receive psychological assessments, medications, treatment and will be compensated for their study visits. For more information, call the Research Assistant at 888/819-0004 or email Effectiveness.Research@UHhospitals.org. Sponsored by the Department of Psychiatry at University Hospitals.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AND CLOTHING HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S ReStore offers used furniture, lighting, sinks, cabinets, windows, doors, appliances, flooring, building supplies and much more. Donations accepted Tuesday-Saturday from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM; showroom open to the public Tuesday-Saturday from 10AM to 4 PM. Call 216/429-3631 with questions.

THE LORAIN STATION FLEA MARKET is open on the first and third



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, May 6, 2014; Missing Persons Awareness Day on Seymour Avenue, 1-year anniversary of escape of Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus, and Michelle Knight: (L-R), new Second District Commander Thomas Stacho, Captain Keith Sulzer of the Division of Community Policing, and Deputy Chief Wayne Drummond join with area residents to promote efforts for greater awareness of the plight of missing persons.

Saturdays of each month until October at 9830 Lorain Avenue. Vendors \$5 set-up; shoppers free admission. Set up begins at 7 AM, shopping at 8 AM. Fresh garden produce from local sources during the growing season.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE
CLEVELAND HOMELESS LEGAL ASSISTANCE/Weekly Wednesday Legal Intake is held for homeless individuals at the May Dugan Center, 4115 Bridge Ave. from 10AM until Noon.

PETS
ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER provides information at www.aspc.org/apcc. Or call 888/426-4435 for help.

FREE WELLNESS SERVICES FOR DOGS AND CATS. If you live in zip code 44109, you may be eligible to receive FREE pet care services (including spay-neutering, vaccinations, flea treatments, collars and leashes, ID tags, deworming, and dog training classes). Contact Becca Britton at Project CARE at the Animal Protective League at 216/255-5012 or bbritton@clevelandapl.org

SELF DEFENSE FOR WOMEN
RAPE AGGRESSION DEFENSE SYSTEMS TRAINING (RAD) is a comprehensive self defense course for women of high school age and older. The training is lead by officers of the Cleveland Division of Police who are certified RAD instructors. Free Tuesdays June 3, 10, 17, and 24 promptly at 4:30-7:30 PM at Estabrook Recreation Center, 4125 Fulton Rd. For more information and to sign-up, call 216/623-5080.

SENIORS
WEST SIDE COMMUNITY HOUSE HOME DELIVERED MEALS are available if you are 60 years old or older and need a nutritious lunch once a day. Call 216/771-7297 Ext. 303 and leave a message.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
HELPING HANDS KNITTING GROUP is seeking volunteers. Lend your skills or learn new ones by joining the Helping Hands Knitting Group, which knits and crochets hats and scarves for neighborhood children. All materials are provided, thanks to a generous Neighborhood Connections grant. The group meets at Cudell Improvement, Inc., 9821 Lorain from 5 - 7 PM each Monday. Call Birgit at 216/631-7233 or Jeanette at 216/228-4383 for details.

LUTHERAN METROPOLITAN MINISTRY invites volunteers to offer their time and talents to work with its programs and/or participants. Visit www.StandInOurCorner.org or call 216/696-2715.

YOUTH
YOUTH TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY at Cuyahoga Community College provides FREE tuition for college courses for high school youth ages 14-18 who have an interest in computers, robotics and related topics. Support services are in place to provide academic tutoring to help you ace your classes, and technical course are designed to be fun and practical. Visit <http://www.ytacc.org> or call 216/987-3382.

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FIFTH ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE, IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 2928 Scranton Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44113: Friday, June 6, 2014, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday, June 7, 2014, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, May 3, 2014; The Immigrant Justice Solidarity Rally and March organized by the Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network: Supporters of immigrant rights begin a march from Market Square Park on W. 25th and Lorain Avenue. The demonstrators called for an end to deportations that are breaking up families.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, May 3, 2014; The Immigrant Justice Solidarity Rally and March organized by the Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network: Supporters of immigrant rights protest on the corner of Clark and W. 25 as they march through the Clark-Fulton neighborhood. The demonstrators called for an end to deportations and a more compassionate policy for immigrants and their families.

SPRINGTIME TRANSITIONS

continued from page 3

aging director of the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood office. Spencer worked for DSCDO for four years managing the Detroit Avenue Streetscape project, coordinating the grand opening of the Capitol Theater and launched the Gordon Square Special Improvement District. Spencer and her husband are residents of Franklin Boulevard and are active in several neighborhood block clubs and neighborhood improvement projects. Spencer's most recently worked for Team NEO doing business recruitment.

Ohio City

Eric Wobser, who has served as Executive Director of Ohio City Inc. as well as serving on the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Board of Education, will be going to Sandusky to start a new position as Sandusky's City Manager.

Education

Near West Side resident Piet van Lier will be leaving Policy Matters Ohio after seven years as communications director and education researcher. Van

Lier joins the Cleveland Transformation Alliance where he will work on school quality monitoring and communications. The Cleveland Transformation Alliance is charged with monitoring the Transformation Plan of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Cleveland Police Department

As reported in the May issue of the *Plain Press*, Keith Sulzer has stepped down as commander of the Second Police District. He has started a new job as a captain in the Division of Community Policing. The new commander of the Second District is Thomas Stacho.

Community residents had an opportunity to offer their best wishes to Captain Keith Sulzer at an evening gathering at the Tremont Tap House on Scranton and Starkweather on May 6th. The event featured free food and a cash bar. A percentage of the proceeds from the drinks purchased were donated to the Second District Police Community Relations Committee's Christmas Party for neighborhood children.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, May 3, 2014; The Immigrant Justice Solidarity Rally and March organized by the Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network: Don Bryant, forefront, holds a sign saying "Liberation not Deportation," as marchers proceed down W. 25 as they march through the Clark-Fulton neighborhood. The demonstrators called for an end to deportations and a more compassionate policy for immigrants and their families.

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