



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Sunday, July 20, 2014; Celebration of 10th Anniversary of Quan Am Buddhist Temple, 11921 Bellaire Road: Quan Am Temple Abbess Venerable Thich Nu Le Thanh welcomes guests and members of the temple to the 10th anniversary celebration.

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Quan Am Buddhist Temple celebrates 10th Anniversary

by Chuck Hoven

Over 200 people gathered at Quan Am Buddhist Temple at 11921 Bellaire Road on Sunday July 20th to celebrate the temple's tenth anniversary.

Many members of Cleveland Buddhist Community attending the celebration, came early to go inside the small temple for a moment of reflection before a beautiful image of Buddha prior to the ceremony. Nuns from the Quan Am Temple greeted guests and members of the temple. Young girls, chosen to carry flowers

during the ceremony, gathered inside the temple beforehand to practice their procession.

The ceremony was held in a tent just outside the temple. The altar, in the tent, was placed in front of a colorful cloth picture of the Buddha. Arrangements of fruit were placed on either side of the altar. Each of the fruit arrangements included two bowls, one on top of the other ringed with large oranges with a pineapple placed in the center on top of the bowls.

Members of Quan Am Buddhist

Temple and its Sangha, a community of ordained Buddhist nuns led by Abbess Venerable Thich Nu Le Thanh, invited guests from twenty Sangha – communities of Buddhist nuns or monks throughout the United States, Canada and even Vietnam. Representatives of those communities in attendance came from many diverse locations including Vietnam, Canada, Michigan, New York, California and Texas. Monks and nuns from Cleveland's Vietnamese and Cambodian communities were also in attendance. At the beginning of the ceremony the nuns and monks walked in a colorful procession from the temple and down the center isle of the tent.

During the ceremony two Buddhist nuns, Venerable Thich Hue Heu and Venerable Thich Quang Nguyen from the Quan Am Temple, announced the names, temple and city and country from which the Buddhists monks and nuns had come. The announcements were made in both English and Vietnamese.

The Venerable Thich Nu Le Thanh, Abbess of the Quan Am Temple welcomed all those in attendance and shared some of the history of the struggle to purchase the land and tear down a garage to develop an extension of the original building. Abbess Thich Nu Le Thanh said, "Today it is a beautiful

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Cleveland Bilingual students sharpen English in summer school

CMSD NEWS BUREAU 7/3/2014
Students attending summer school at Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy this summer, worked to bring their reading up to grade level while also mastering a new language.

Nearly 40 students who were in the second and third grades during the 2013-14 school year

took part in a summer session for children studying English as a second language.

About 50 other English as a Second Language (ESL) students participated in an enrichment program for sixth through 12th grades. Both programs ran through Friday, July 11.

The Newcomers Academy helps

refugees and other immigrants adjust to a new language and customs. Alejandra Ceja, executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, visited the school last week and said it could serve as a model for the nation.

The summer students come from
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PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN

Saturday, July 12, 2014; 88th Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Italian Festival, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 6928 Detroit Ave: Front: L to R: Kemuel, Antonio, Tyler, Back: L to R: Tashi, Steph, Tyler -- Enjoy a day of fun and games at the 88th Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Italian Festival

Artist John Rivera-Resto completes *It's up to us* mural on Clark Avenue at W. 25th Street

CLARK AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD GETS A POLISHED GEM

by Nancy Lewis

The richest piece of public art in Cleveland's west side, *It's up to us*, a mural by artist John Rivera-Resto, was completed on July 10, 2014. The busy intersection of Clark Avenue and West 25th Street on Cleveland's near west side has been made an iconic landmark by the addition of this large-scale mural. The mural's realism and panoramic scale (2000 square feet) is visually stunning in its own right but what is strongly resonating with audiences is what it shows: a hard hitting and thought provoking commentary about the damage that social, economic and political ills do to a neighborhood.

The mural's location is at the heart of one of Cleveland's most vibrant and culturally rich neighborhoods, home to large Hispanic, Asian, African-American and Italian communities. Its central theme, inspired in part by John F. Kennedy's

speech about reaching for the moon by putting aside personal differences, being accountable and making sacrifices, and Bob Dylan's song, "The Times they are a-Changin'", urges people to take responsibility for their actions to improve their lives and their neighborhoods.

The mural's design is as ingenious as any renaissance masterpiece. The illusion has been constructed within a life-size scale backdrop of six storefront facades that cleverly incorporate the real entrances to medical offices. Within this framework, a cast of over 40 individual characters, the mural grittily captures many elements of urban life in a seamless blend of form and content.

What's more, pedestrians walking along the mural really appear to inhabit the space thereby adding

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, July 20, 2014; Celebration of 10th Anniversary of Quan Am Buddhist Temple, 11921 Bellaire Road: Buddhist nuns and monks walk in a procession from the temple to an outdoor tent where two hundred members and guests await their arrival to begin the celebration of the founding of the temple.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, July 20, 2014; Celebration of 10th Anniversary of Quan Am Temple, 11921 Bellaire Road: Girls from the Quan Am Temple bring offerings of flowers to the Buddha during the ceremony: (Front to back): Lancy Nguyen, Rebecca McGinty, Lexie Lieu, Amanda To, Angela To, and Annie Nguyen.



PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN
Saturday, July 12, 2014; Festival Del Café, Club Alma Yaucana, 2674 W. 25th Street: Mariliana Claudio, Alexis Vargas, and eight-month old Gabriam enjoy a day of fun at the Festival Del Café.

ARTS AND CULTURE
2 artists + 2 spaces / 4 weeks = TAG: Round 2 Like a game of tag, there is no real competition or winner, just a playful framework through which the artists' unscripted dialogue changes over time. Opening Reception: August 22, 6:00 – 9:00pm at Spaces at 2220 Superior Viaduct, Exhibition: August 22 - October 17, 2014. Visit spacesgallery.org/ for other dates.
ARTS IN AUGUST, free arts programming, is scheduled for Tremont's Lincoln Park. On August 1, Cleveland Public Theatre STEP will be held at 7 pm. On August 2 and August 3 at Cleveland

Shakespeare Festival at 7pm. On August 7, Inlet Dance Theatre at 8:30pm. On August 8, GroundWorks Dancetheatre at 8:30pm. On August 9, Verb Ballets at 8:30pm and on August 22 Mo' Mojo at 7pm. For more information on additional events, go to tremontwest.org
COMMUNITY FUN DAY, August 16, from 11 am to 4 pm at Cleveland Free Will Baptist Church, 4676 W. 11th. Free food, free fun and games. Free blue grass entertainment. Bring your family and friends. .Call 216-661-6384 for more information.
CASABLANCA will be shown FREE for senior citizens at the Palace Theater

on Playhouse Square near downtown. Individuals 60 or older may make reservations to watch the classic movie at the Palace Theater on August 8 at 1 pm. To order tickets call 216/420-6713. No tickets will be available at the door.
EDGEWATER LIVE ON THURSDAYS. Weekly live music and food trucks: August 7 (Charles Hill) and August 14 (Revolution Pie) from 5:30pm to 8pm. Go to clevelandmetroparks.com/lakefront
STORIES WORTH RETELLING. Capture your family stories; create your legacy. Stories Worth Retelling will work with you and your loved ones to share memories. They create video memoirs, photo books, and restore old or damaged pictures to capture your family legacy for generations to come. Visit storiesworthretelling.com, call 216/469-8623 or email bcagley@storiesworthretelling.com
STUDENT THEATRE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (STEP) will perform Now the City Dreams, a re-imagining of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Sponsored by Cleveland Public Theatre and presented by teenagers, the play will be held on July 31 at 7pm at Herman Park (West 58 and Herman Ave), on August 1 at 7pm at Lincoln Park (West 14 and Starkweather Ave), on August 7 at 6:30pm at Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy (3145 West 46 St), on August 8 at 7pm at Denison Elementary School (3799 West 33 and Denison), on August 9 at 7pm at St. John's Church (2600 Church Ave and West 26), and on August 10 at 4pm at Fairview Park in Ohio City (West 38th and Franklin Blvd.). Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the free theatre in the park. For more information, including rain locations, visit cptonline.org.
SUMMER IN DETROIT SHOREWAY will be celebrated FREE at Herman Park at West 59th and Herman: On July 31 at 7pm, they will feature Cleveland Public Theatre: Student Theatre Enrichment Program Performance (Rain Location: CPT). On Wednesday August 6 from 1pm-2pm Art in the Park will be shown. On August 9 an outdoor movie will be featured at 8:30pm; arrive at 7pm for art and ice cream (Rain Date: September 19).
SWINGING SUMMER CONCERTS in the Gazebo at Halloran Park, 3550 West 117th St. are sponsored by Westown



The Plain Press Community Board is a listing of a variety of free activities and resources for neighborhoods served by the Plain Press. It is sponsored by Organize! Ohio through donations from readers and supporters.

CDC. Food trucks. Local Opening Artists. The August concert is on Sunday, August 3, with Bob Darby from 4pm-5pm and the Rat Pack and more from 6pm-8pm. Log onto WestownCDC.org for more information.
"TAKE A HIKE" features actors portraying important Clevelanders from the past. Every week through September 16, the Canal Basin Park Tour meets Sundays at 10am at Settler's Landing RTA Station (1025 West Superior Avenue). Other tours are listed at clevelandgateway-district.com or by calling 216/771-1994. Free admission. Donations encouraged.
VISITING CHOIR TO SING at Franklin Circle Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 1688 Fulton Rd. The Chancel Choir of Gender Road Christian Church from Canal Winchester, Ohio will be sharing the gift of music in worship on Sunday, August 3, 9:30am. There is no charge, although an offering will be taken. For more information, go to FranklinCircleChurch.org or call 216-781-8232.
"WE CARE" EXPO in Jefferson Park, 13124 Lorain Ave. Local and state organizations participating. FREE food, raffles and school supplies. Sponsored by Aable Rents and Walk of Faith Community Center. Sunday, August 10 from noon-3pm. See wofcommunitycenter.org for more information.
THE WOMEN'S ART CLUB OF CLEVELAND was started in 1912 and disbanded in 2006. An art exhibit called A Great Joy is showing through December 30, 2014 at the Cleveland Public Library Main Library Fine Arts Special Collections Department., 3rd floor. For more information, call 216/623-2818.
THE WORLD'S LARGEST ONLINE CLASSICAL MUSIC LIBRARY, NAXOS also includes jazz, world/folk, contemporary instrumental, Chinese music and pop and rock. Stream audio for free with your library card. Visit cpl.org/naxosmusiclibrary. Click on juniors section.

CRIME
IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION. Identity theft is still growing and plaguing thousands of innocent people every day. There are steps to take to protect yourself, and they are FREE. Each year, you can get a free credit report from three different companies. You should request one every 4 months from a different company. To request a credit report, go online at annualcreditreport.com
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD is scheduled for August 5 at 5pm. A going away party for crime with friends and neighbors, law enforcement and local businesses at Cudell Commons baseball field just south of Cudell Recreation Center, 1910 West Blvd. Free food and beverages, school supplies and prizes while supplies last. The Urban Barbers Association will be there with free back to school haircuts for the young men and a special treat for the young ladies. Questions? Call 216/631-7233.

EDUCATION
THE CLEVELAND TRANSFORMATION ALLIANCE has information about the many free K-12 public school options. Choose your child's school, regardless of where you live. Visit www.Cleveland-ta.org to learn more. Or find them on Facebook or call 211.
THE CITY'S YOUTH SUMMIT AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR will be held Saturday, Aug. 2 at Public Auditorium, 500 Lakeside Ave. The event is designed to get families ready for the school year. Parents and students can attend workshops connected to the theme of "Conduct, Courage and Character." The event also will showcase community activities, events and organizations that support families. Registration and breakfast will begin at 8 a.m. The event will end with lunch and distribution of school supplies. Participants must attend two workshops

to receive school supplies. Quantities of meals and supplies are limited. Free parking will be available in the Willard Garage.
COMPETE TO WIN A GIFT OF FREE BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES delivered to your door by uploading your school supply list to GreatClips.com
ENVIRONMENT
NATIVE PLANTS can help reduce the threat of invasive non-native species to the region's biodiversity. The Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Biodiversity's members (LEAP) are involved in identifying, protecting and restoring ecosystems and habitats. For more information, log onto leapbio.org.
THE CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY offers classes including **Pest Management** (learn strategies to help control pests and diseases from overtaking your garden on July 31 at 5:30pm at the Lorain Branch, 8216 Lorain Ave., 216/623-7011) and **Seed Saving** (how to save seeds from your best fruits, vegetables and flowers for next year's garden on August 21 from 5:30pm-6:30pm at the Carnegie West Branch, 1900 Fulton Rd., 216/623-6927).

FOOD
THE GARDENS OF GIVING PROGRAM seeks to provide our hunger centers with donations of produce for distribution or preparation, as well as the recruitment of clients to volunteer at gardens and farms. **Donate fresh produce from your garden.** For more information about this program, please contact Sara Continenza, scontinenza@hungernetwork.org or, 216/619-8155 ext 37. Or visit hungernetwork.org/
THE GREATER CLEVELAND FOOD BANK distributes food to local food pantries, hot meal programs, shelters, mobile pantries, programs for the elderly and other nonprofit agencies and does SNAP outreach. **Donate fresh produce from your garden.** Please contact Jessica Morgan, jmorgan@cleveland-foodbank.org or, 216/738-2133. Or visit greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/
MENU FOR THE FUTURE is a six-session conversation exploring the connection between food and sustainability. Eight to twelve people form a group and using resources developed by the Northwest Earth Institute, learn about and discuss issues that support a sustainable food system. Course books are available to \$20 or on loan through local libraries. Call 216/264-0181, email menuforthefuture@gmail.com, or visit menuforthefuture.webs.com.
NORTH UNION FARMERS' MARKET will run Sundays through September 28 from 11am-2pm in the United Bank

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Examining school performance: test scores vs. child poverty rate

by Chuck Hoven

As the new school year begins, parents and community members have an opportunity to examine the record of local schools by the criteria now being used by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) and the Cleveland Transformation Alliance. As an aid to understanding the relationship between test scores and poverty, the *Plain Press* is printing the scoring for each school provided by the Cleveland Transformation Alliance along with Child poverty rates for neighborhoods where the schools are located.

Looking at how the Cleveland Transformation Alliance judges schools will help to give an indication of what the CMSD and the Transformation Alliance are looking at when they ask that students fill seats in the better performing schools. What will happen to the remaining schools? Will the resources promised through the "Investment Schools" chosen in the Cleveland Transformation Plan be sufficient to raise test scores enough to keep these schools open? Or, will these supposed resources be given as an excuse to say, "we tried, but we couldn't do it" and now the schools will be closed?

NEWS ANALYSIS

As schools open early this academic year so teachers will have more time with students before standardized testing begins, a look at test scores by neighborhood may give parents and community members a sense of what is at stake. The Cleveland Transformation Alliance has printed a booklet titled *Choose your School!: A Cleveland School Selection Guide*. The guide lists all the public and charter schools in the city of Cleveland and offers information on how the student bodies at those schools performed on standardized tests in the 2012-13 school year. Two measures are used featuring letter grades from the Ohio Department of Education: Achievement and Progress. Schools are given a grade from A to F to measure how the student body fared on the tests' academic scoring and if the students as a group showed a full year

of academic progress. For High Schools the graduation rate (4 or 5 years) is used instead of the Progress measurement.

According to the Cleveland Transformation Alliance's booklet, the Achievement score results are compiled from answering two questions about the school: "How many students passed the state test?" and "How well did the students do on the state test."

The booklet says the second measure, the Progress score, measures "how many 4th-8th grade students made at least one year's worth of academic growth. Schools where students made more than one year's worth of academic growth receive a higher grade. Schools where students made less than one year's worth of growth receive a lower grade."

The test scores used by The Cleveland Transformation Alliance are from the 2012-13 school year. So parents should keep in mind that any progress made in the last school year is not reflected in these scores.

Data available for childhood poverty rates by neighborhood is even older: it is compiled from the year 1999 as measured by the 2000 United States Census. The source the *Plain Press* used for child poverty rate data is: the NEO CANDO system, Center on Poverty and Community Development, MSASS, Case Western Reserve University (<http://neocando.case.edu>). Only estimates area available for future years, but indications are that child poverty rates have increased in Cleveland since the 2000 census.

Several questions come to mind when looking at school ratings and neighborhood child poverty rates. Are the school test scores that will help to determine closures meaningful, or are they a reflection of the poverty in the neighborhood and the lack of resources provided to individual schools? Is it beneficial to be spending so much time taking tests when the results are not immediately available to teachers to help them address students' academic needs? Questions such as this should be answered, and serious consideration be given to creating the type of testing that allows teachers to identify student academic needs and work with students to address them.

It is important to take into consideration poverty when trying to improve student achievement. For example in Bay continued on page 7



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, July 19, 2014; Literary Lots, Bridge Avenue between Fulton and W. 38th on the grounds of the Carnegie Branch of the Cleveland Public Library: William Garland, age 7, rides a sea turtle. Children listened to stories and played in the Literary Lot constructed with a sea and water theme. The Literary Lot will be open through August 9th.

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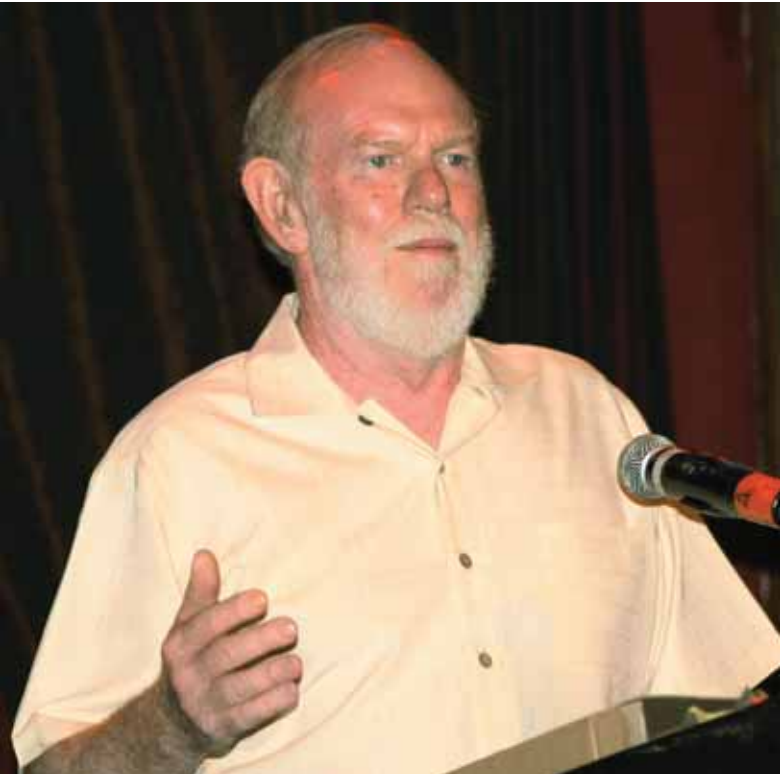


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, June 27, 2014; Dan Joyce Retirement Party, House of Blues, Downtown Cleveland: Long time Cleveland Mediation Center Executive Director Dan Joyce celebrates his retirement after working for the Cleveland Mediation Center for over three decades.

Local exterminator weighs in on how to determine if you have bed bugs

by Chris Mulvaney

Bed bugs are probably the oldest insect pest associated with human misery. Although they have never been associated with transmitting disease to humans, bed bugs have been a scourge since history began. Within recent years, they have returned with a vengeance, and unfortunately effective bed bug treatment is labor intensive and requires multiple inspections and treatments.

The first step is to figure out whether you have bed bugs or not.

How to Detect Bed Bugs

The only way to be sure whether you have bed bugs is to find one. Do not assume that every red mark is from a bed bug bite, or that every suspicious insect is a bed bug. Be sure that you actually have bed bugs before embarking on the process of trying to treat for them. To narrow down the process, determine whether the bites occur at night, and, if so, whether they may be from your bed or another sleeping area.

Tip from a Pro – Edwin J. “Basically you need to be diligent, you need to be a detective.” Joe J – “check cracks and crevices, check everywhere, and check everything for bed bugs and evidence of them.”

Start with inspecting the beds. Inspect the sheets and bedding for evidence of blood spots or bed bug fecal marks, especially around the edges and corners by the head of the bed. Once this is done, carefully remove the sheets and bedding. After that, inspect the beading, seams, tufts and folds on the mattress, especially around the head and foot of the bed. Lift the mattress and inspect the box spring, focusing especially around the bottom tack strip and corner guards. You may want to remove the dust cover on the bottom of the box spring and the corner guards to inspect beneath them. Check the bed frame and headboard. On wooden frames and headboards, make sure to check the cracks, crevices and screw holes.

After the bed, move on to inspecting any couches and recliners. Begin by checking around the cushions, front of the arms and the bottom, by the footrest. Flip the couch over and check underneath the arms, the seam on the top back of the couch, around the tack strip and legs. If there is a dust skirt, make sure to inspect underneath for



evidence of bed bug activity.

Most bed bugs will hide in or around beds, couches and recliners – the areas where people rest or sleep for long periods of time. In most cases, if you don't find bed bugs on the beds or couches, there probably are not any there.

Tip from a Pro: If you find an insect and cannot identify it yourself, take it into the office of a local pest control company and they should be able to ID it for you.

If you cannot find anything, but still suspect there may be bed

bugs in the bed, install ClimbUp®

Interceptors under the feet and check them once a week. They are a very useful way to determine whether there is bed bug activity.

“93% of bed bugs are found in, on or near the places where people sleep and rest for long periods of time.”

Editor’s Note: Chris Mulvaney works in the neighborhood for General Pest Control. His specialty is helping area residents to rid their homes of bed bug infestations.

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Basic Bed Bug Facts

1. Adult bed bugs are about 1/8 inch long with reddish-brown, oval flattened bodies. The nymphs resemble the adults but are smaller and lighter in color.
2. Bed bugs feed solely on the blood of animals. The common bed bug prefers feeding on humans. In the absence of a human host, bed bugs have been known to feed on other warm-blooded animals such as dogs, cats and birds.
3. Bed bugs feed by piercing the skin with an elongated beak. The person seldom knows they are being bitten. Bite symptoms vary from an itchy welt or localized swelling to little or no reaction. Consult with a doctor or medical provider for more information.
4. Although they can harbor pathogens in their bodies, disease transmission from bed bugs to humans is still considered highly unlikely.
5. Bed bugs do not fly or jump but can move rapidly over floors, walls, ceilings and other surfaces. If necessary they will crawl more than 100 feet to obtain a blood meal.
6. Ninety-three percent (93%) of bed bugs are found in, on, or around the areas where people sleep or rest for an extended period of time. This includes beds, couches, recliners, futons and even wheelchairs.
7. Female bed bugs lay their eggs in secluded areas, depositing up to five a day and 200-400 in a lifetime.
8. The eggs are clear to white in color, the shape of a grain of rice and the size of a pinhead. They can be hard to see without magnification. When first laid the eggs are sticky, causing them to adhere to the surface they are laid on.
9. Newly hatched nymphs are no bigger than the head of a pin. As they grow from stage to stage they shed their skin five times before reaching maturity. A blood meal is needed between each successive grown stage (called a molt).
10. Under favorable conditions with temperature in the 70 degree to 90 degree Fahrenheit range, bed bugs can complete development from egg to adult in about five weeks.
11. Nymphs can survive a few months without feeding and the adults for several months to up to a year. Infestations are therefore unlikely to diminish by leaving premises unoccupied.
12. Bed bugs are active mainly at night. During the daytime they prefer to hide close to where people sleep.
13. About three to ten minutes are required for each blood meal, during which time saliva containing an anticoagulant is injected into the host.
14. Bed bugs tend to congregate in habitual hiding places. Typically, these are marked by dark spotting and staining, and sometimes are accompanied by sweet but pungent odor. Also present will be eggs, eggshells and molted skins of maturing nymphs.

Newspaper, *Connecting Cleveland*, helps Napali-speaking Bhutanese community to connect in Greater Cleveland and around the world

by Chuck Hoven

In January of 2014, six Lincoln West High School students collaborated to publish the first edition of *Connecting Cleveland*, a newspaper serving the Nepali-Speaking Bhutanese community in Greater Cleveland and beyond. Hari Kumar Dahal, an eleventh grade student at Lincoln West at the time the first issue was published, serves as the paper's Overall Editor and Designer. His older brother, Ganga R. Dahal, a senior at Lincoln West, serves as the paper's Managing Editor.

Hari Kumar Dahal says he and his family arrived in Cleveland in June of 2013 in a resettlement aided by Catholic Charities. Hari and his brother, Ganga, were tested at the Thomas Jefferson Newcomers Academy where it was determined their English proficiency was sufficient for them to start the school year at Lincoln West High School. Hari says students, in the refugee camp in the Nepal where his family has lived since the early 1990s (before he was born), learned English, Nepali and Dzongkha, the language of Bhutan.

Upon arriving at Lincoln West High School, Hari and Ganga were pleasantly surprised to find four other Nepali-Speaking Bhutanese students – Ganesh Bhujel, Teeka Acharya, Reeta Acharya, and Mahendra Adhikari. Although they had all grown up in the large Bhutanese refugee camps in Nepal, the young people met each other for the first time at Lincoln West High School in Cleveland.

Hari says the students met frequently and their discussions centered on how to create a means of connecting members of the Nepali-speaking Bhutanese community to each other and to other people in the Cleveland area. They decided that creating a newspaper would aide in this endeavor and started to work toward publishing *Connecting Cleveland*, a bilingual publication in both English and Nepalese.

Hari Kumar Dahal says he had worked on a newspaper while in the refugee camp in Nepal. He says because he liked computers, he was chosen to go to a cyber café in a town in Nepal where he was able to download an internet video and teach himself the publishing program InDesign. Thus, upon coming to Lincoln West, he already had some skills in designing a newspaper.

In their efforts to create *Connecting Cleveland*, Hari says the students met after school or on weekends at their parents' homes. Hari said when producing a paper in Nepal, the big cost was for the computer time at the cyber café; the printing itself was not very expensive. Here, the opposite was true, he had a home computer and the skills to design the newspaper, but unlike in Nepal, it was expensive to print. He had difficulty finding a printer that would print a small one or two hundred copy press run for a reasonable price. Hari says he eventually found a printer in London. He could send them a digital copy of the newspaper via the internet and they would mail back several hundred copies for about \$250.

For the first edition, their parents and elders of the community contributed pocket money to help cover the cost. For subsequent editions, Hari says Lincoln West Principal Dr. Irene Javier helped to secure the funds. By the end of the school year, the group had published five issues of *Connecting Cleveland* – January through May. Hari hopes to be able to raise additional funds

to publish an edition this summer, or will wait until the new school year to resume publishing.

Hari says upon publishing *Connecting Cleveland* and placing it online on facebook.com/connectingcleveland and at a website, connectingcleveland.wordpress.com, they were contacted by other Napali-speaking Bhutanese in the Greater Cleveland area. They found other families that had been resettled in Lakewood and Cleveland Heights. Since this discovery their families have been able to get together for picnics and gatherings.

Hari says in helping to prepare *Connecting Cleveland* for publication, Lincoln West High School teacher Ms. Andrea Gale helped to edit the portion of the newspaper. He also received assistance in editing the Nepali portion of the paper from Vidhyapati Mishra, the Managing Editor of the *Bhutan News Service*. Hari says he knows Vidhyapati Mishra, who is from the same refugee camp as his family. Mishra, who resettled in North Carolina, also allows *Connecting Cleveland* to reprint some articles from the *Bhutan News Service*.

Hari says the Lincoln West students that started *Connecting Cleveland* have found that the paper not only has helped to connect them with other Bhutanese in Cleveland, but also through the on-line presence has connected them with Bhutanese in the diaspora throughout the world. As Napali-speaking Bhutanese have given up hope of ever being allowed back to Bhutan or being fully integrated into Napali society, many have chosen resettlement. With 75,000 Bhutanese refugees already settled in the United States, in some states they represent the largest group of immigrants. According to an article in the April issue of *Connecting Cleveland*, an additional 13,770 Bhutanese refugees have resettled in Australia, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom.

Connecting Cleveland also has helped the Bhutanese Community to connect with people outside the Bhutanese community in Greater Cleveland. The papers distributed in various public locations in Cleveland have helped Greater Cleveland residents to learn about this new community living in its midst. In addition to this article in the *Plain Press*, the Cleveland Public Schools' Media Office recently published an article about Hari Kumar Dahal and *Connecting Cleveland*.

Connecting Cleveland, which has thus far published five editions, has offered a variety of articles connecting the Bhutanese community with news from refugees resettled around the world. It has attracted articles from other refugees, such as an article from Moses Lagoon, high school student recently resettled in Pittsburgh,



PHOTO BY KRISHNA DAHAL

August 2014: *Connecting Cleveland* Editor Hari Kumar Dahal (forefront) and Managing Editor Ganga R. Dahal (rear) with an issue of *Connecting Cleveland* on the screen and their home computer.

Pennsylvania. The newspaper offers practical information to recently resettled refugees on how to survive in the United States, such as how to apply for a green card, and how to sign up for and use food stamps.

Both Hari and Ganga have written and shared stories about their lives through the pages of *Connecting Cleveland*. In the April issue of *Connecting Cleveland*, Ganga shared his thoughts about leaving the refugee camp and his friends and relatives in Nepal and his hopes of being the first in his family to go to college. Hari republished an article in the January issue of *Connecting Cleveland* that he had originally written for the *Bhutan News Service* in December of 2012 when he was still in Secondary School in the refugee camp in Nepal. Hari wrote of a large fire that swept through the refugee camp where many residents lost all their possessions. He appealed to the world for help saying, "If you have anything to

serve mankind in dire need, its high time to raise helping hands in any form."

In publishing *Connecting Cleveland*, the Nepali-Speaking Bhutanese students at Lincoln West High School have created a publication that is reaching out to the community and helping newly arrived Bhutanese immigrants to adjust to the Greater Cleveland Community and connecting with

other Bhutanese around the world. The publication is also a means for other Clevelanders to learn of this community, its struggles and its hopes for the future.

Editor's note: to view copies of *Connecting Cleveland* and learn more about the Nepal speaking Bhutanese Community, visit *Connecting Cleveland's* new website at: www.connectingcleveland.net

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Se Habla Español





PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN

Sunday, July 13, 2014; Grand Opening Performances of the Music Settlement at the New Bop Stop Location, 2920 Detroit Ave: Cellist Teacher Ida Mercer and Student Jim Toner perform an arrangement of classical and contemporary music at the grand opening of the Bop Stop venue.

QUAN AM TEMPLE

continued from page one

place and a very nice Buddhist Temple for everyone to come to worship Buddha, to meditate or for Community meetings." She thanked all those who have given "direct and indirect support" over the years to the temple and offered a prayer "may the Buddha protect you and your family and guide you on a path of awakening."

The building contractor, who built the extension, was among the guests recognized at the ceremony. Other guests included Joseph Meissner and Gia Hoa Ryan of the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese. Meissner spoke of the 32 trips he took to Vietnam and the work the Friendship Foundation in developing a connection between the Vietnamese American Community and Vietnam. Meissner relayed the dying words of a monk from a temple he visited in Vietnam "Follow the Buddha and Do Good."

Le Nguyen, now retired from the City of Cleveland Community Relations Department, presented proclamations from both Mayor Frank Jackson and Ward 11 Councilperson Dona Brady.

During the ceremony a group of girls slowly marched down the isle to the altar going slowly from side to side bringing offerings of baskets of flowers for the Buddha. The ceremony also featured a team of Lion dancers.

Toward the end of the ceremony a number of guests were given beaded bracelets by the monk presiding over the ceremony. The bracelets had been blessed on the altar during the ceremony, in placing the bracelets on the wrists of the guests, the monk told each person that the bracelet would bring them "good luck."

Following the ceremony all were invited to stay for food and entertainment. Guests feasted on a wide variety of vegetarian Vietnamese dishes.

IT'S UP TO US

continued from page one

more to the realism. When seen with the attentiveness it commands, the artistry and depth of the design provides almost the richness of a great panoramic novel. The universality of its theme and imagery is one that can easily speak to any urban community in the world.

The artwork, created by master-muralist and Cleveland native John Rivera-Resto, a 40-year veteran in the international stage, with degrees from Cleveland State University and Norwich University of Vermont and hundreds of works to his credit. Rivera-Resto is considered, by many, as one of the top-ten muralists in the nation. His specialty in propaganda art and a background in theatre, writing and lecturing make him a natural for this type of narrative painting.

Rivera-Resto's artistic philosophy is as thoughtful as his paintings. He states: "A great mural lives within

Legal Aid hosts free legal advice clinics

by Mac Bailey

Legal Aid's mission is to secure justice for low-income residents by providing high quality legal services that come at no cost. If you have a civil legal issue, but can't afford an attorney, the Legal Aid Society can help. A primary way of getting started with Legal Aid is by attending one of the many free legal clinics located all over the Cleveland area.

Are you aware that creditors can't harass you to collect a debt? Did you know that one could obtain a special immigration visa that protects victims of crime, including domestic violence survivors? That you should not leave your home just because you received a foreclosure notice? Legal Aid helps its clients with these issues, along with many more.

It is so often the case that the most vulnerable are unaware of, or unable to exercise, their legal rights. Not only does this deepen individual poverty, but it also greatly affects the community at-large. For example, when the foreclosure

crisis hit Cleveland, the problems deepened when residents left their homes before looking at options to deal with the foreclosures they were facing. If residents had stayed, and sought counsel from Legal Aid attorneys, they could have saved the home, or at least extended their stay. Instead, Cleveland was left with a vacancy problem that it is still fighting.

A recent housing case that Legal Aid handled was one in which a disabled man, who was unable to work, was locked out of his home after an individual broke in and set fire to the unit. Surely, without the services of Legal Aid, he would have become homeless. Luckily, he had a highly skilled attorney who was able to prove that he was not at fault for the fire, and make the landlord give him a new apartment. In so many cases like this one, help from Legal Aid helps one from going deeper into poverty, or may help someone escape from poverty.

In every type of case that is handled, Legal Aid gets results. Last year,

continued on page 7

an environment. But it does not preach, it does not blame; it makes us understand."

Rivera-Resto and his young apprentices spent three years developing and painting *It's up to us* on site. Completing this ambitious project was challenging and fraught with many obstacles. Cities such as Boston, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles have large and well-funded professional mural painting programs that highlight the cultural riches of their neighborhoods, beautify their urban areas, and bring new forms of revenue to their economies. With this mural, Rivera-Resto means to throw down the gauntlet with the challenge: "Why not Cleveland? This is proof that it can be done."

In fact, the mural is surpassing all community expectations and people from other parts of the city are taking notice. With *It's up to us*, Rivera-Resto managed to hit a cord in the public's consciousness, and, in the process, he created the richest piece of public art in Cleveland and the most thematically relevant to the community.

Editor's Note: The author, Nancy Lewis, is a business agent and representative for Muralmaster. She is also a longtime Lakewood resident whose career spans the fields of international travel management and culinary arts. To find out more about this project and see detailed photos, please visit http://www.muralmaster.org/current/curr_2012

[muralmaster.org](http://www.muralmaster.org) [up to us/It's up to us](http://www.muralmaster.org) To see other works by the artist, please visit <http://www.muralmaster.org> Contacts: Nancy Lewis nancylewis@muralmaster.org (216) 228-2325 John Rivera-Resto www.muralmaster.org john-rr@muralmaster.org (216) 225-4833.

Artist's Statement of Recognition: Artist John Rivera-Resto placed this statement of recognition on the *It's up to us* mural: June 2014

This Mural is dedicated to Chris Luciani.

His vision and tireless effort made this gift to the neighborhood a reality.

John Rivera-Resto

Master Painter & Mural Designer www.muralmaster.org

Richard Owens

Assisting Artist

Amanda Maldonado

Lead Apprentice

Joshua Serrano

John Alexander

Assisting Apprentices

Young Student Apprentices

Surface Prep and Underpainting

Mural My Neighborhood Program

City of Cleveland

Thalia Fomby Yanna Morgan

Jacob Buntyn Shamyra Johnson

Margaux May Gabriel Pichardo

Victoria Vélez Omar Bright

Our deepest gratitude to:

Gloria Ferris

Megan Meister, SCFBC

Councilman Brian Cummins

Nancy Anne Lewis

Ricky Nelson Rivera

And Dr. Nicholas Rinaldi

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project was invaluable."

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Lou Tisler, Executive Director

TEST SCORES

continued from page 3

Village, just west of Cleveland, where the child poverty rate is estimated at less than 3%, there is no talk of using test scores to evaluate teaching staffs and close schools. In a 7/17/14 blog at janresseger.wordpress.com, local educational activist Jan Resseger cites a *New Yorker* essay where Rachel Aviv quotes educational researcher David Berliner who says, “The people who say poverty is no excuse for low performance are now using teacher accountability as an excuse for doing nothing about poverty.”

In her blog, Resseger is critical of the “portfolio school reform” model chosen by the Cleveland Transformation Plan saying closing public schools and replacing them with charter schools or distributing vouchers will not address issues faced by children living in poverty.

To address issues stemming from poverty, Resseger says “it will be necessary to develop the political will to invest publicly in the schools in communities where poverty seems intractable. We’ll need to provide incentives to attract the best teachers and support teachers instead of blaming them when they cannot overcome such

issues on their own. We’ll need to reduce class sizes. We’ll need to provide the kind of wrap-around health and social services embedded in Community Schools. We’ll need to create quality Pre-Kindergarten programs to catch children up before the achievement gap gets established prior to their even beginning school. The federal government will need to increase investment in improving the public schools in our poorest communities and find ways to create incentives to ensure that states also increase their investment in quality education for children living in poverty.”

School performance and poverty rates in neighborhoods served by the Plain Press:

Tremont: Child poverty rate in 1999: 55.35%
Buhner Dual Language: Achievement C, Progress A
Luis Munoz Marin: Achievement F, Progress F
Scranton: Achievement D, Progress A
Tremont Montessori: Achievement C, Progress A
NEOhio College Prep: Achievement C, Progress A
Ohio City: Child poverty rate in 1999: 49.77%
Orchard STEM: Achievement D, Progress C
Paul L. Dunbar: Achievement D, Progress B
NW Intergenerational Sch: Achievement B, Progress C
Arts & Science Prep: Achievement D, Progress B
Horizon Science: Achievement D, Progress A
Detroit Shoreway: Child poverty rate in 1999: 49.53%
H. Barbara Booker: Achievement D, Progress D
Joseph M. Gallagher: Achievement D, Progress F
Watterson Lake: Achievement D, Progress C
Waverly: Achievement D, Progress C
Cudell: Child poverty rate in 1999: 40.82%
Marion C. Seltzer: Achievement D, Progress F

COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

Building Parking Lot on West 26th Street. For more information, visit nor-thunionfarmersmarket.org
TREMONT FARMERS’ MARKET, presented by MetroHealth, is held on Tuesdays through September 30 from 4-7 pm in Lincoln Park. Produce Perks! Dollar for Dollar Match (up to \$10) to be spent on fresh fruits and vegetables. Visit tremontfarmersmarket.com, email tfm@tremontwest.org or call 216/272-3560.

HEALTH CARE

A BLOOD DRIVE will be held at the Sky-light Financial Group Building (formerly the United Bank Building) 10th floor 2012 West 25th St. on August 20 from 10am to 3pm. Donate blood and receive a coupon for \$10 off Cedar Point admission, while supplies last. Log on to red-crossblood.org and enter sponsor code: unitedbankbldg. For more information, call 1-800/RED-CROSS. Blood drive sponsored by Skylight Financial Group.
HEALTH CARE SERVICES will be provided by MetroHealth System to students at more district schools, starting in the fall. The expansion builds on a clinic that began serving Lincoln-West High School in March. The RV-sized mobile unit will expand its rounds to include more west side schools: Max S.Hayes, Garrett Morgan School of Science, Luis Munoz Marin, Walton and Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy, a K-12 school for arrivals from other countries and Puerto Rico. MetroHealth’s mobile unit will be open to students a half-day per week. A physician or nurse practitioner and medical assistant will offer services such as urgent care, immunizations, sports physicals and basic lab tests; a mental health professional will provide referrals for those services.

SAVING WOMEN AND GENTS (SWAG) sponsored by The Urban Barber Association (TUBA) is scheduled for August 2 from 11 am to 5 pm at 98th St. and Lorain Ave. Insurance info, stop smoking education, diabetes education, blood pressure screening, blood glucose

BILINGUAL STUDENTS

continued from page one

a number of bilingual Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) schools. Bilingual summer school teacher Eileen Spada’s third-graders are from Puerto Rico and countries that include Iraq, Iran, Senegal, Argentina, Tanzania and Mexico.

The class recently went on a neighborhood walk, toured downtown on Lolley the Trolley and traveled to the Western Reserve Historical Society’s Hale Farm and Village.

They identified sights through proper and common nouns and compared and contrasted urban and rural settings. The students also logged an inventory of their finds that they used to create charts and graphs.
Spada’s techniques include

screening, HIV screens. Music, food, fun and friends. For more information, call 216/245-TUBA or visit www.TheUrban-BarberAssociation.org
WOMEN AGES 45-65 are needed to participate in a 90-day clinical trial. Post-menopausal women are eligible. Compensation provided. Contact the Clinical Trials Unit at Case Western Reserve University: call 216/844-4444, email info@case.edu, or visit clevelanddaids.org/ring.

LEGAL AID

FREE LEGAL AID clinic is first-come, first served for low-income individuals with civil legal issues (not criminal ones) for advice and referral. Bring all relevant paperwork. Clinic is scheduled for August 9 from 9:30am – 11am at Carnegie West Branch at 1900 Fulton Road.

MENTAL HEALTH

JOURNEY TOGETHER, SUPPORT FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING LOSS. A meeting place for adults who have experienced the death of a loved one, loss of a relationship or other life events resulting in grief. All are welcome. All Caring Hospice holds grief support groups on the 1st Tuesday of every month (August 5) from 6-7pm at Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ at 2592 West 14th St. For information and registration, contact Michelle Kissinger at 216/520-4080 or mkissinger@allcaringhospice.com.

PRE-SCHOOL

EARLY LEARNING CENTERS opportunities are available for private pay, voucher qualified and Early/Head Start eligible families. Part and full day services are available for children ages 6 to pre-kindergarten at Archwood at 2800 Archwood Ave. and Gordon Square at 5209 Detroit Ave. Call now to enroll: 216/325-9678.

PRE-K for four-year-olds this fall at private providers and district schools. Tuition and transportation assistance is available. Contact Starting Point at 216/575-0061 or visit clevelandmetro-schools.org/PRE4CLE.

SUMMER COOLING

HELP IS AVAILABLE FOR OHIOANS who are at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty level to purchase an air conditioner or fan, and/or assist in

having students clap to syllables as they pronounce words and use gestures for recognition, for example, turning an imaginary key that they associate with KeyBank.

Spada, who teaches at Walton PreK-8 School during the school year, said her students made big strides during their summer classes but not without a lot of hard work. They are wrapping up by taking the Northwest Evaluation Association exam and the Ohio Achievement Assessment, both of which can help them comply with a state requirement that they read at a third-grade level.

The summer program also attracted students whose families came to Cleveland from Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Liberia, Myanmar, Burundi, Nepal, Santo Domingo, El Salvador, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Colombia and the Congo.

Madison Community : Achievement C, Progress C
Northwest Academy: Achievement D, Progress F
West Boulevard: Child poverty rate in 1999: 26.40%
Almira: Achievement D, Progress F
Wilbur Wright School: Achievement D, Progress F
Louis Agassiz School: Achievement D, Progress A
W. Com School of the Arts: Achievement C, Progress C
Edgewater: Child poverty rate in 1999: 29.16%
Louisa May Alcott: Achievement B, Progress A
Brooklyn Centre: Child poverty rate in 1999: 33.86%
Denison: Achievement D, Progress A
Horizon Science: Achievement D, Progress C
Clark Fulton: Child poverty rate in 1999: 39.83%
Walton School: Achievement D, Progress A
Hope Academy LP: Achievement C, Progress A
Thomas Jefferson Newcomers Academy: NA
Stockyard: Child poverty rate in 1999: 47.64%
Clark School: Achievement C, Progress A
Stockyard Com Elem: Achievement D, Progress B
Stockyard Com Middle: Achievement D, Progress B

West Side High Schools:

Max Hayes: Achievement D, Graduation Rate F (75.2%)
New Tech at Max Hayes: Achievement B, Graduation Rate NA
Garrett Morgan School Science: Achievement C, Graduation Rate: D (84.2%)
Lincoln West High School: Achievement D, Graduation Rate F (50.7%)
James Ford Rhodes High School: Achievement C, Graduation Rate F (65.8%)
John Marshall High School: Achievement D, Graduation Rate F (61.3%)
Bard High School: NA
Lake Erie International High School: NA

Editor’s Note: Additional information of the Cleveland Transformation Alliances’ school ratings can be found by calling 211 or visiting their website at: www.clevelandta.org.

the payment of an electric bill, through August 31. Households must also qualify with an elderly member (60 years or older), or with physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member’s health. Eligible households can receive up to \$350 to purchase an air conditioner or fan, and/or to assist in the payment of an electric bill. This year, the program will also provide assistance up to \$400 to customers of Cleveland Public Power with a disconnection notice who are eligible. For more information, please contact the Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland at 216/518-4014. Additional information can also be found at ceogc.org, energyhelp.ohio.gov or by calling the toll-free at 1-800/ 282-0880

TECHNOLOGY

TECHCENTRAL of the Cleveland Public Library offers classes on topics including computer programming and audio editing. In **Making Code: Learn to Program**, participants will create interactive programs and more using Ruby programming on August 18 at 4:30 pm. In **Making Tunes: Mastering Mix Tracks**, edit sound, voice and music using multiple sound tracks with Audacity audio editor and recorder on August 7 at 1pm. Both classes will held at the Lorain Branch, 8216 Lorain Ave. Space is limited; call to register: 216/623-7011 or 216/623-2980.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, June 29, 2014; Near West Theatre performance of *Move On!*, St. Patrick’s Club Building, 3606 Bridge Avenue: Children sing *So Long, Farewell* from *Sound of Music* (music by Richard Rodgers, Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II). The June 29th performance was Near West Theatre’s last performance at the St. Patrick Club Building. Near West Theatre plans to move to its new theatre by early 2015, and will perform at various locations in the interim.

LEGAL AID

foreclosures were prevented in 76 percent of its cases, barriers to education were removed in 89 percent, and eviction was prevented in 99 percent.

Legal Aid’s clinics provide free legal advice from attorneys on civil (noncriminal) issues for low-income individuals. Clients receive advice on a first come, first-served basis. It is often the case that one may receive all the help they need at a clinic, but if more assistance is needed, Legal Aid will continue working with you, especially if representation is needed.

If you or anyone you know needs help with a noncriminal problem, attend one of Legal Aid’s upcoming free legal advice clinics:

Saturday, August 9, 9:30-11:00 a.m., at the Carnegie West Branch of the

Cleveland Public Library, 1900 Fulton Rd., Cleveland.

Saturday, August 13, 5:00-6:30 p.m., at the East Cleveland Public Library, 14101 Euclid Ave., Cleveland.

Saturday, September 13, 5:00-6:30 p.m., at the Glenville Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, 11900 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland

For more information, or if you are unable to attend one of the free clinics, call Legal Aid at [216-687-1900](tel:216-687-1900) or [888-817-3777](tel:888-817-3777), or visit Legal Aid online at www.lasclev.org.

Editor’s Note: Mac Bailey is a development intern at Legal Aid. He is native to the Cleveland area, living in Kirtland. Currently, Bailey attends Sewanee, The University of the South, and intends on going to law school after college.

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Take it to the Max! Summer Camp prepares students for life at Max Hayes High School

by Chuck Hoven

Forty-one students celebrated the completion of the Take it to the Max! Summer Camp at Max Hayes High School, 4600 Detroit Avenue on June 26, 2014. The three-week camp for eighth grade graduates entering the ninth grade, focused on teaching students skills in communications, computer aided design, machining, nutrition and staying healthy. The graduation ceremony featured the Pinewood Derby Championship, a race of pinewood cars the students created during the summer session.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Thursday, June 26, 2014, Max Hayes Career and Technical High School Take it to the MAX! Summer Camp 2014 Pinewood Derby Championship, 4600 Detroit Avenue: At the graduation ceremony for the summer camp students race pinewood cars they designed and created. Michael Doss and Phillip Jacobs place their cars on the track at the beginning of a race.

News about area Non Profit Organizations

Several area organizations move to new locations

Recovery Resources

Recovery Resources, an addiction, substance abuse and mental health program, has moved from W. 29th and Detroit Avenue to a building in the former Deaconess Hospital complex on Pearl Road near just north of State.

La Providencia Hispanic Services Office

La Providencia Hispanic Services Office, an outpatient drug and alcohol services program for Hispanic adults and youth, has moved from the United Building on W. 25th and Lorain to its new home at the Catholic Charities Covenant Center at 1515 W. 29th Street, just North of Franklin in the old McGuffey School Building.

Matt Talbot

Matt Talbot Inn, a substance abuse treatment program, has moved from 2270 Professor Avenue in Tremont to a its new home at 6753 State Road in Parma, Ohio.

Cheryl Jackson, a Workforce Development Coordinator for the summer camp and an employee of WIRE-Net, a network of manufacturing companies that partners with Max Hayes, says of the 41 students that completed the summer camp, twenty-seven plan to attend Max Hayes High School in the fall. The students will be part of the class of 2018 and will be graduating from the new Max Hayes High School at W. 65th and Walworth. Some of those students have already earned a half credit toward High School graduation by

completing all their assignments this summer and showing up each day on time for the Take it to the Max! Summer Camp.

José Estremera, WIRE-Net's Youth Program Coordinator, says the Take it to the Max! Summer Camp is designed to help students entering the ninth grade at Max Hayes to become "familiar with what high school life is going to be like." He says in the beginning of the camp students are given a block of wood, four tires, and some nails, and then asked to create a car. Students participating in the program were able to use the raw materials to design and build their own cars using three-dimensional imaging software, math skills, the machine shop, and other tools and resources available at Max Hayes High School, explained Estremera.

At the culmination of the three-week program, students raced the vehicles they created and competed in a design competition. The racing cars were judged on the distance they covered and for speed. In the design competition cars were judged by the cut of the car, its look and shape, aerodynamics and the painting and decals.

The students winning the distance competition in the Pinewood Derby Championship were: Shaqwon Badley, First Place; Jamie Ephraim, Second Place; and Stone Robinson, Third Place.

The students having the fastest cars were: Ricky Vinson III, First Place; Raymond Brown Jr.; Second

Place; and Tye Zohn Pennyman, Third Place.

The winners of the design

competition were: Valery Kasole, First Place; Nyla Brown, 2nd Place and Wilson Ruiz, 3rd Place.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Thursday, June 26, 2014, Max Hayes Career and Technical High School Take it to the MAX! Summer Camp 2014 Pinewood Derby Championship, 4600 Detroit Avenue: (L-R): Winner of the fastest car competition Ricky Vinson III and winner of the distance competition Shaqwon Badley.

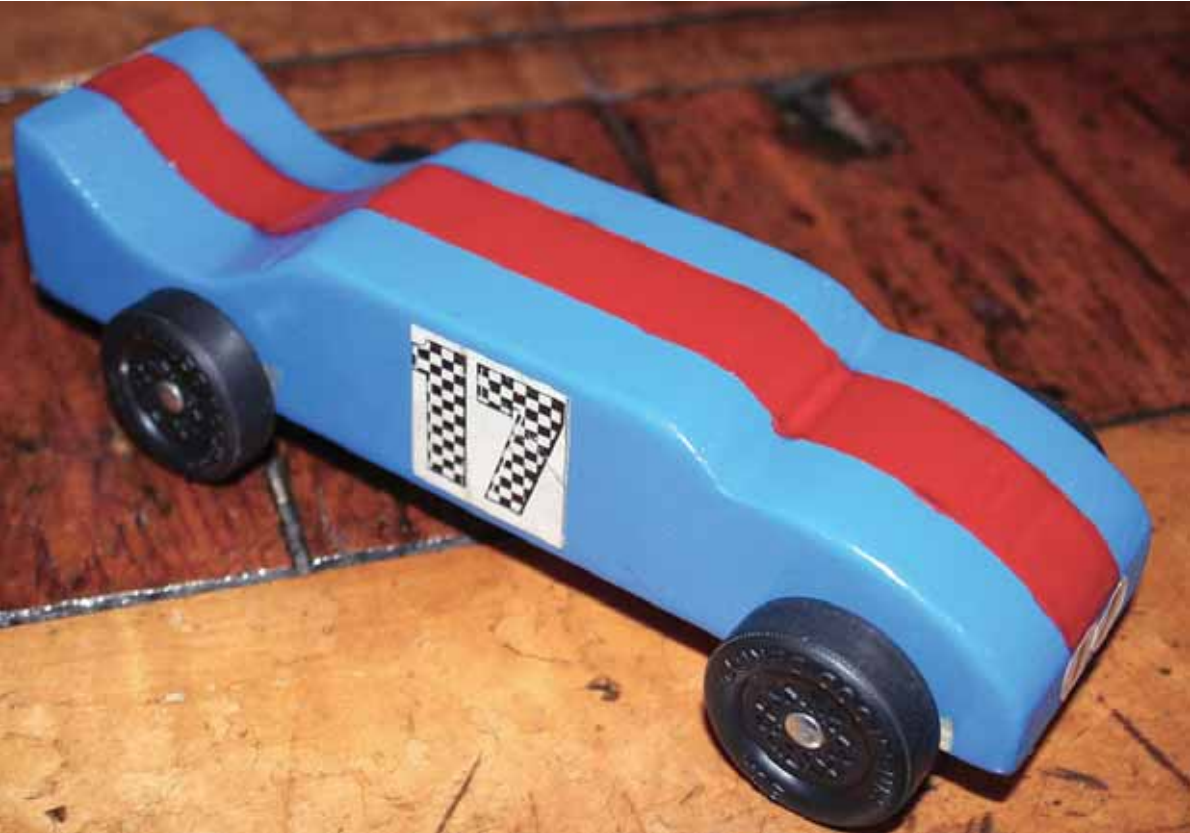


PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Thursday, June 26, 2014, Max Hayes Career and Technical High School Take it to the MAX! Summer Camp 2014 Pinewood Derby Championship, 4600 Detroit Avenue: This car designed by Valery Kasole won first place for best design. Cars were judged by their cut, look and shape, aerodynamics, painting and decal.

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