

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, August 20, 2014; Mac's Backs Coventry Bookstore, Cleveland Heights: Bill Arthrell, a retired Cleveland History teacher, who taught at both Rhodes and John Marshall high schools, shares his thoughts on the revolution in the Ukraine. Arthrell observed history in the making in the Ukraine where he served as an international Election Observer this past May. See related story on page 6.

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

Vol. 41, No. 9 September 2014

# Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

# PRE4CLE sets goals to expand quality preschool offerings in city of Cleveland

by Chuck Hoven

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District hopes that in the near future a higher percentage of Cleveland children will be able to enroll in high quality preschool programs.

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, the first day of

preschool at Tremont Montessori School, parents shared their thoughts about the value of preschool. CMSD Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon and Katie Kelly, the newly appointed executive director of PRE4CLE, gave an update on efforts to expand the number of high

quality preschool slots available in Cleveland. PRE4CLE, an early learning compact among many community partners, is charged with working to increase the number of quality preschool slots available to Cleveland children.

### Parents praise pre-school

Pierre Sain and Javin Polk, parents of three children that have participated in the preschool program at Tremont Montessori School, testified as to the quality of the program, and the difference it has made for their children.

#### **NEWS ANALYSIS**

Sain said their daughter Kaylissa, who is now in third grade, learned to read and write full sentences while in preschool. Polk added, that by the end of first grade, "She was reading to us."

Sain said, their son, Pierre, who is now in the first grade, is ahead of all his peers in vocabulary and is reading at a third grade level.

JáVierre, now age four, is the third child of Sain and Polk to participate in the preschool program at Tremont Montessori. JáVierre started in the preschool program at age 3, so he is now entering his second year in preschool. Sain and Polk said prior to going to preschool JáVierre was "unfocused and not enthusiastic about learning." Sain and Polk

continued on page 4



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Friday, August 22, 2014; First day of preschool, Tremont Montessori Elementary School, 2409 W. 10th Street: Cleveland Metropolitan School District Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon offers an update on PRE4CLE, a plan to expand the number of high quality preschool openings available for children in the Cleveland School District.

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, August 3, 2014; Westown Community Development Corporation Swinging' Summer Concerts at Halloran Park: Kayla Readinger, age 6, visits with Frank Sinatra (Damion Fontaine) as the Rat Pack entertains the crowd. Readlinger came up to the area in front of the gazebo to dance with Fontaine.

### Madison's Pathway Garden of All Seasons brightens corner of W. 105th and Madison Ave.

transformed the corner of West 105 Neighborhood Connections grant and Madison into the Madison's Pathway Garden of All Seasons.

The effort to change a vacant lot into a flower garden began in 2010 when W. 105th Street resident Clarissa Thompson approached Cudell Improvement Executive Director Anita Brindza to seek permission to plant flower seeds on the lot. Cudell Improvement owns the lot.

Once permission was granted, Thompson and neighbor Carla Buchanan began planting flower seeds in the lot. Thompson says about ten neighborhood residents, including her sons, have been involved with planting and making improvements to the flower garden. She often transplants flowers from her yard to the garden.

Thompson says the garden is a perennial flowering garden with plants that come up on their own each year.

Each year the neighbors have made improvements to the garden.

Neighborhood residents have This year with the help of a of \$1,500 the group was able to add mulch paths to the garden and create a sign with the name of the garden. Area residents have also collected aluminum cans to raise enough money to buy three trees to plant in the garden.

> Another effort underway is to name the flowers in the garden and post signs by each type of flower. Neighborhood resident Jim Westler is researching the names of the flowers, while Jan Westler, his wife, is designing the signs. Anita Brindza of Cudell Improvement is in contact with a scout troop to help burn the names into wood signs.

> Goals for the future of the garden include picnic tables, benches and birdhouses. Thompson hopes to apply for another grant to help with additional improvements.

> Besides serving to beautify the neighborhood, weather permitting, the garden also serves as a meeting place for the monthly meetings of the Madison's Pathway Block Club.

### Welcome House seeks funding for home for developmentally disabled youth aging out of foster care

by Chuck Hoven

Welcome House, which purchased the Cuyahoga County Archives buildings at W. 29th and Franklin, hopes to use the main building, the Rhodes House, to provide housing and support services for twenty-four developmentally disabled young

adults who are aging out of foster

Welcome House Executive Director Tony Thomas explains the need for such a place for young people with developmental disabilities aging out of foster care. Thomas says when these young

people reach age 19 "the County Board of Developmental Disabilities struggles to find placement for them, many don't end up in the right situation "

Thomas says the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental continued on page 6



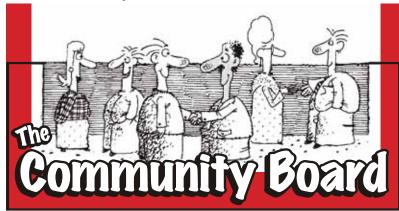
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MIDWEST SAFETY TEAM

Summer 2014, Madison's Pathway Garden of All Seasons, W. 105th and Madison: Residents of the Madison's Pathway Block Club enjoy a picnic in the garden.



PHOTO BY ROBERT WEAKLEY

Sunday, July 13, 2014; Fr. Petru Stanea's 40th Birthday Celebration, St. Helena Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church, 1367 W. 65th Street: Fabian Barbolovici, President St. Helena Church Council, Cleveland Diocesan Bishop Gries, Fr. Petru Stanea, New Rector at St. Helena, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Rector Fr. Richard Rasch, Jack Craciun III, Executive Chair, St. Helena Property and Dev. Committee, Father Justin of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OLMC). Bishop Gries and priests from Our Lady of Mount Carmel participating in the annual procession through the neighborhood during the OLMC festival, stop to greet those celebrating Fr. Stanea's birthday at St. Helena's.



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.

**ADVOCACY** 

NORTHERN OHIOANS FOR BUD-**GET LEGISLATION EQUALITY** (NOBLE) fights for an equitable revenue system in Ohio that protects and strengthens all residents of the state and makes Ohio a productive, competitive and compassionate place to live. NOBLE is a community-based coalition whose mission and purpose is to raise the community's voice in the State of Ohio's budget legislative process. It seeks to protect and expand health, human services and other critical needs through educating and mobilizing residents to provide a citizen voice at the legislative level. It meets every month at the NOBLE office at 3500 Lorain Avenue. Call 216-651-2606 or email NOBLE@organizeohio.org or visit http://www.organizeohio.org/ noble.html.

THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY **REINVESTMENT COALITION** is hosting a Summit with Ohio partners focusing on three themes: the ongoing reinvestment crisis in Ohio of housing, predatory lending and accessible banking, the economic security of older adults, and the invisibility and economic disinvestment of low and moderate income neighborhoods. It will be held at the Student Center at Cleveland State University on Monday September 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. To register, go to www.eventbrite.com/e/ ohio-reinvestment-summet-tickets-12239908897. Low income people may get in at no cost by contacting Larry Bresler at 216-651-2606 or <a href="mailto:lbresler@organizeohio.org">lbresler@organizeohio.org</a> with your name and email address. **MEETING ABOUT CLEAN AIR** AND CLIMATE CHANGE will be held Saturday, September 6, from 10 a.m. - Noon at 3406 Clinton Ave, Cleveland. Main topic: CLEAN

Vision Statement and Mission Statement. If anyone wants to propose a vision or a mission statement, please keep it to one page. Send it out to the group or bring copies of it to the meeting. All ideas will be discussed. Follow CLEAN on Facebook at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/">https://www.facebook.com/</a> groups/639807352753472/?fref=nf

THE PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH is scheduled for Sunday, September 21 in New York City. There will be a bus from Cleveland. For more information, go to peoplesclimate. org/march/.

**NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS** holds a Network night on the 1st Thursday of every month (September 4 from 6-8 p.m. to share ideas and resources and connect with others on issues important to you. Meets at University Circle United Methodist Church, 1919 East 107th Street (on Chester Ave). Questions? Call 216-361-9149, email ibishop@ neighborhoodgrants.org, or visit www.neighborhoodgrants.org.

**OUR WALMART:** Organization United for Respect at Walmart is an independent organization made up entirely of current and former hourly Walmart associates. "Together we can make Walmart live up to its promises of respect for the individual, good jobs, and community partnership." Visit ForRespect. org, www.facebook.com/OURWMT, www.flickr.com/OURWalmart, www. youtube.com/user/OURWalmart, or call 1-800-957-3373.

### **ANNUAL GATHERING**

FOURTH ANNUAL GATHERING to celebrate three neighborhoods as one community. The Stockyard, Clark-Fulton and Brooklyn Centre Community Development Office meeting will be held at W. 58th Street church of God, 3150 W. 58th Street on Thursday, October 2 from 7 p.m.

to 9 p.m. Please RSVP to SCFBC-CDO nmccormack@dscdo.org or 961-9073 x201.

### STOCKYARD, CLARK-FULTON AND BROOKLYN CENTRE COM-

**MUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL** members are needed. Stockyard has three positions open, Clark-Fulton and Brooklyn Centre each have one. If you have been a resident of one of these neighborhoods for one year, are active in your neighborhood and would like to move into a collaborative network to set policy and guide our neighborhoods in the net few years as a community then submit your name. Send a short biography and why you want to take this step to Gloria Ferris, Chair, Community Advisory Council, gloriaferris@gmail.com or 216-351-0254. Deadline for submission: September 15, 2014.

#### **ARTS AND CULTURE** TRANSFORMER STATION, W.

29th and Church: Due to popular demand the show Unknown: Pictures of Strangers TRANSIT BYZANTIUM, new video by Tim Davis has been extended thru September 27th. Clevelanders wishing to participate in the challenge to find scenes from the video and win prizes can find more information on the Transformation Station's website at www.transformerstation. org. Fred Bidwell, Co-founder of the Transformation Station will make a special presentation in the galleries on September 25th to discuss the concept of the showwhich explores how artists use photography to capture images of strangers. Regular Transformation Center hours are Wednesdays. Noon to 5 p.m.. Thursdays, Noon to 8 p.m., Fridays noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays Noon to 5 p.m. The galleries will be closed on Saturday September 6th for a special event. The galleries will be open on Sunday, September 21st from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. during the Sunday Market at Hingetown.

TRANSFORMER STATION, W. 29<sup>™</sup> and Church, seeks volunteer gallery attendants. For more information email: info@Transformer-Station.org.

CALL FOR ENTRY FOR THE **NINTH ANNUAL OHIO ONLINE** ANNUAL VISUAL ARTIST REGIS-TRY (OOVAR) ART SHOW sponsored by The Ohio Arts Council, the Columbus Metropolitan Library and Friends of the Library View, will be presented at the Columbus Metropolitan Main Library's Carnegie Gallery from November 19, 2014 to January 10, 2015. OOVAR is comprised of the works of over 1,300 artists (and the database is growing every week) from Ohio and around the world, representing all kinds of art. It's all computerized, cross-referenced and accessible from your home, office or local library. The deadline to apply is Friday, September 19, 2014. Visit: http://www. oac.state.oh.us/News/NewsArticle. asp?intArticleId-748

THE SECOND ANNUAL CLEVE-LAND ONE WORLD FESITVAL will be held at the Cleveland Cultural Gardens on Saturday and Sunday, September 13 and 14 from 1 p.m. until dusk. For more information, visit www.clevelandoneworldfestival.com.

EL SALVADOR CHILDREN'S ART AND POETRY EXHIBIT is a traveling show available for display at your school or place of worship. To schedule this exhibit, contact Lisa Hardin at 216-215-2700.

PROMOTE YOUR ARTS FESTIVAL OR COMPETITION. The Ohio Arts Council is assembling its 2015 Ohio Arts Festivals and Competitions Directory and invites Ohio festivals and competitions that feature arts and crafts to submit their listings. The directory is a guide for artists who are interested in locating places to display and sell their work - from traditional crafts to contemporary artwork - and for anyone seeking arts events in Ohio. Organizers and promoters who want to list their activities in the 1015 Ohio Arts Festivals and Competitions Directory should visit http://www. oac.state.oh.us.search/OACFestival/2015%20Festivals%20Directory%20FORM.pdf to download and fill out a PDF of the entry form. The deadline for entry in the 2015 directory is Friday, September 26, 2014. **SUMMER MOVIE SERIES** features Draft Day on Septembe 12 and Captain America: The Winter Soldier on September 27. Both are PG-13. US Bank Plaza at Playhouse Square for free outdoor movies beginning at dusk. Al fresco dining is available at DYNOMITE burgers. If movies are cancelled due to weather there are no rescheduled movie dates or alternate indoor locations. Visit PlayhouseSquare.org/summer for more information.

TREMONT ARTS AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL is scheduled for Lincoln Park on W. 14<sup>th</sup> omn September 20 (11 a.m. - 6 p.m. and 21 ( 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Free Admission. Over 120 artists and vendors. Visit Merrickhouse.org/tacf or call 216-575-0920 ext. 106.

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LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT) and other education issues will be held by Common Good Ohio at its next Community Education Meeting. The meeting will be on September 15th at 6301 Lorain Avenue. (Michael Zone Recreation Center) from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be available. Bring a friend. Meeting will be held in Multi-Purpose Room. PRE4CLE RAMPS UP EFFORT TO ENHANCE QUALITY PRE-SCHOOL: Families interested in finding a high-quality Pre-K provider in Cleveland should contact Starting Point at 216-575-0061 or visit http:// www.clevelanmetroschools.org/ PRE4CLE for more information.

**FOOD** 

NEED FOOD? GET HELP: Call the Greater Cleveland Food Bank at 216-738-7236 or visit GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org Apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) if you meet these income guidelines: Household size 1 person - Gross monthly income \$1,244 or less; 2 person household - monthly income \$1,680; 3 person household - monthly income \$2,115; 4 person household - monthly income \$2, 551; 5 person household - monthly income \$2,986. For larger households, add \$435 for each additional member. TREMONT FARMERS' MARKET, presented by MetroHealth, is held on Tuesdays through September 30 from 4-7 p.m. 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.rog or call 216-272-3560.

### **HEALTH ISSUES**

JUVENILE ARTHRITIS: There are more than 100 different diseases and conditions that affect the joints and surrounding tissue. Many of thes can affect children, too. The most common type of juvenile arthritis is juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA). A few of the common physical challenges faced by children with JIA include: early morning pain and stiffness, pain and stiffness due to prolonged sitting, difficulty walking, difficulty carrying heavy books, problems participating in physical education class. To learn more about strengthening the parent-teacher partnership for children with arthritis, request the free Arthritis Foundation brochure Juvenile arthritis: A Teacher's Guide, by calling 216-285-2836 or toll free at 1800-245-2275, ext. 6416.

### **LEGAL AID**

A FREE LEGAL AID CLINIC will be held on Saturday, September 27 from 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. at the Spanish American Committee at 4407 Lorain Avenue. A first come, first service clinic for low-income individuals with civil legal issues (Not criminal issues.) Bring all relevant paperwork with you. Visit http:// lasclev.org/event/09272014/.

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### **Plain Press**

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Advertising e-mail: plainpressads@yahoo.com

Website: www.plainpress.org Plain Press © Established in 1971 Circulation: 21,000 copies.

Published monthly. Distribution area: Cuyahoga River west to W. 130, Lake Erie south to the Lower Big Creek/Brookpark Road. Available free

at over 500 locations. Managing Editor: Charles E. Hoven; Editor: Deborah Rose Sadlon; Photo Editor: Coriana Close

**Community Board Editor:** Margie Bray Hoven Advertising Sales: Tom Sheehan;

Graphic Artist: David Myers; Distribution: John Cartwright & Ahmed Morad

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Dr. Leo Jeffres, Joe Narkin, and Helen K. Smith

### Juveniles break into bicycle shop, while owner volunteers at the Taste of Tremont festival

by Chuck Hoven

A dozen new and used bicycles were stolen from Shaker Cycle at W. 5th and Jefferson in the Tremont neighborhood. Shaker Cycle's owner, Mitch Paul, says the theft occurred on July 20th while he was helping out at Taste of Tremont offering a secure location for guests to park their bicycles and doing some bicycle repairs. Paul, a Tremont neighborhood resident, moved his bicycle shop to the corner 15 years ago in anticipation of the Canal Corridor Towpath Trail coming through the Tremont neighborhood.

Paul says he discovered the theft the day after the Taste of Tremont when apparently the perpetrators came back to steal more bicycles. He noticed three bicycles parked outside his store on the Jefferson side of the building with the door open. He apprehended two of three youths inside the building pulling more bicycles out of the store. The third youth fled the scene. Paul says when police arrived they found the two youths pockets were filled with bike accessories from his shop. The two youths were arrested for breaking and entering.

Paul, who has no insurance

to cover the theft, estimates the value of the dozen new and used bicycles stolen at \$4,000. He says some of the bicycles were those of customers that were in for repairs.

Paul says in the fifteen years he has been at W. 5th and Jefferson. this is the worst incident, crimewise, that he has experienced. He says prior to this, his experience at the location has been relatively crime free.

Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC), the area's development corporation, and also the host of Taste of Tremont, is aware of the thefts. Executive Director Cory Riordan notes Mitch Paul was "generous in offering to man the bike parking corral" at Taste of Tremont. When asked about a possible fundraiser to help Mitch Paul recover from the theft, Riordan says TWDC generally doesn't host such events, but would be willing to serve as a fiscal agent and help promote an event if someone in the community initiated the fundraiser.

Riordan suspects the breaking and entering that occurred during the festival was random "crime of opportunity" done by "kids that knew his schedule."

### W. 25th Street resurfacing from I-71 to Detroit set to begin in mid September & finish in August of 2015

Plans for road resurfacing on W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street were revealed at a public meeting at Applewood Center, 3518 W. 25th, on August 25th. The resurfacing of W. 25th Street between I-71 and Detroit Avenue is expected to begin in mid September and be completed by August of 2015.

Shelly Company was awarded the work on the maintenance project after submitting the minimum bid of \$2.98 million. City of Cleveland Project Manager and Design Engineer Ron Mason said 80% of the cost of the project would be paid for by the State of Ohio through the Urban Repairs Project Fund. The City of Cleveland will contribute the other 20% of the funding. The project involves resurfacing the existing roadway and upgrading the American Disability Act (ADA) ramps at street corners.

The first phase of the project will focus on W. 25th between I-71 and I-90. A spokesperson for Shelly Company said they hope to complete the area in front of MetroHealth Medical Center before winter sets in.

During project construction traffic will be limited to two lanes, one lane in each direction for northbound and southbound traffic from I-71 to I-90. During construction there will be no parking allowed. Cars parking in the area will be towed.

Residents from the streets surrounding MetroHealth expressed some concern that their streets will be inundated with cars from Metro patients trying to avoid parking fees. Project Manager Mason said a meeting with MetroHealth was scheduled to try to address some of the issues surrounding the upcoming project.

Bicycle advocates attending the meeting asked if the street would be striped for bicycle lanes after it is repaved. Mason explained the rules governing the State of Ohio's Urban Repair funds only allowed the road to be resurfaced and lanes marked exactly as they were prior to resurfacing. However, the funds can't be used to restripe the street for bicycle lanes. Mason said they could ask that the restriping be done with paint that can easily be removed and once ODOT is done with the project the city can put in its own lane markers.

Jim Sheehan of Ohio City Bicycle Coop asked that all the striping along the W. 25ht Street corridor be done with paint that can be easily

Riordan says that TWDC tracks patterns of crimes and has not detected any pattern of breakins along Jefferson. The TWDC Safety Committee works to keep

residents aware when there is a pattern of crime in an area and help to keep these types of things from happening, he said.

Riordan says TWDC will follow

up with police on the case. TWDC has a court watch, said Riordan, but he suspects in this case, because juveniles are involved, will either be pleaded out or go to juvenile court.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

August 22, 2014; Shaker Cycle, 2389 W. 5th Street: Mitch Paul outside his bicycle shop.

removed. Representatives of Shelly Corporation said that because of the weather, temporary paint will be put on this year. They suggested that decision to use paint or the harder to remove thermoplastic for the lane markers can be made in the spring.

Mason noted that the reason bicycle lanes have become an issue and a need is because of changing demographics. He said younger people used to rush to get a drivers license at age 16, now many "prefer to go by bicycle."

Ward 14 Councilman Brian Cummins noted the high percentage of City of Cleveland residents that don't have cars. He urged residents to get involved in upcoming transportation planning meetings for the W. 25th Street Corridor from Brooklyn Centre to Detroit and an upcoming Clark Avenue Transit Study.

In response to another question, Mason said no rerouting of RTA buses is expected to be necessary for this project.

Mason said that residents with questions or concerns about the construction project should call him at 216-664-2381.



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(2nd Year)

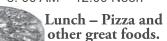
Tremont Art and Cultural Festival (10th Year)

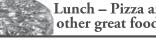




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Friday, August 22, 2014; Tremont Montessori Elementary School, 2409 W. 10th Street: Preschool teacher Ms. Susan Conrad reads to children on their first day of preschool.

### QUALITY PRESCHOOL OFFERINGS

continued from page one

said that during his first year in preschool JáVierre loved to come home and tell them about his day and what he learned in school. He learned to count to fifty and by 10s to one hundred, they said. Polk says LáVierre was bored this summer and she gave him some number flash cards. She said he arranged them in order from one to twenty.

Polk says the preschool also helps students to get along with others. She says her children come home every day and tell them about a new friend they met in school. She praised the program and its teachers for helping children to improve their social skills and learn to get along with others. Sain encouraged parents to start their children in a quality preschool program at age three. "I would start early," he said, "it is really beneficial."

### **CEO Eric Gordon**

CMSD Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon praised the Tremont Montessori School as a model example of progress from long standing partnership with Cuyahoga County's Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) program. He noted Tremont Montessori is an original UPK site in Cuyahoga County. He said Cuyahoga County is an excellent partner in helping PRE4CLE to leverage capacity to increase the number of quality preschool slots available.

Gordon said in an effort to increase the number of children benefitting from preschool, 260 more quality preschool spaces have been added so far this year in CMSD schools. PRE4CLE has worked with its community partners to add certified teaching aides to existing classrooms and to create

new preschool classrooms to make this happen, said Gordon.

Gordon said all of those spaces are assigned to students and there is now a waiting lists for children to get into the preschool program. With the addition of these 260 new slots "there are now 1.020 children currently enrolled in high quality preschool at CMSD," according to a Malissa Bodmann, a PRE4CLE consultant from Advocacy and Communication Solutions

Gordon noted that PRE4CLE is also working with private day care providers such as Staring Point to create additional quality day care spaces. Those providers have added over 75 more quality preschool spaces, said Gordon. With these additional slots private providers in Cleveland are currently enrolling 648 four-year olds and 662 three-year olds in high quality preschool programs, says PRE4CLE consultant Bodmann.

Stressing the importance of high quality preschool, Gordon says students that have attended a high quality preschool achieve higher scores on tests that measure kindergarten readiness. Those that are kindergarten ready, do better throughout their academic career, he said.

Gordon emphasized that in addition to high quality learning, students are engaged in imaginative play in preschool and stressed, "preschool does not eliminate the fun of being a four year old."

### PRE4CLE

In the first two years of the PRE4CLE compact, from 2014-2016, the goal is to increase the number of high quality preschool slots for 4 year olds by 2,000 slots. When that effort is complete, three year olds will be targeted. Katie Kelly, PRE4CLE's new director, said PRE4CLE is well on its way to creating 1,200 additional highquality preschool slots for four year olds this year (2014-15 school year).

PRE4CLE: The Cleveland Pre-K Implementation Plan produced by the Cleveland Pre-K Task Force says the program will work with providers who have a State of Ohio Step Up to Quality rating of 3 Stars or better. It will work with those providers to improve their ratings to 4 or 5 stars.

Speaking of how high quality preschool classrooms are measured PRE4CLE Director Kelly said, "These classrooms are highly rated by Step Up To Quality, (www. earlychildhoodohio.org/sutq.php.) Ohio's quality rating improvement system." PRE4CLE is also working with community partners to reach out to parent and families to raise awareness of the importance of quality preschool and of the quality pre-school opportunities available,

The process of increasing the number of children in quality preschool slots, also means increasing the number qualified preschool teachers. To that end, PRE4CLE states that "Starting Point has trained 27 preschool classroom aides in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District to achieve their Child Development Associate Credentials; an additional 56 Infant/Toddler, Preschool and Family Child Care Providers in the City of Cleveland received training in June on selecting and using a developmentally appropriate curriculum and assessment."

### **Children Served**

The CMSD News Bureau reports that a study by Case Western Reserve University presented in March of 2014 indicates "only 2,857 Cleveland children ages 3 to 5, fewer than one in five, were enrolled in high-quality preschool last year." PRE4CLE says that in 2013 there were 10,013 preschool slots

available in Cleveland. However, only 3,530 slots were rated as high quality slots by the State of Ohio and of those slots, only 2,857 were filled.

If PRE4CLE successfully adds or fills 1,200 seats this year, that would bring the number of children in quality preschool seats in Cleveland to 4,057. However, estimates in the PRE4CLE: The Pre-Kindergarten Plan indicate that 3-5 year olds in Cleveland numbered 16,353 in

So even if the implementation is successful this year only 25% of Cleveland's 3-5 year olds will be in high quality rated preschool classrooms. PRE4CLE will have a long way to go to meet its stated goal of enrolling 70% of Cleveland's 3-5 year olds, over 11,000 children, in quality preschool programs.

PRE4CLE's implementation plan says it will assure that at least 2,000 additional 4-year olds are enrolled in high quality Pre-K sites in 2016 (from a current level of 1,200 four year olds in quality preschool slots.) PRE4CLE says this will be done by "filling at least 250 currently available but vacant high-quality enrollment, adding 1,000 newly created high quality enrollment, and helping more programs join the state's Step Up to Quality program which identifies high-quality programs in continued on page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Friday, August 22, 2014; First day of preschool, Tremont Montessori Elementary School, 2409 W. 10th Street: Parents Pierre Sain and Javin Polk testify to the quality of the preschool program at Tremont Montessori and the positive impact it has had on their three children Kalissa (now in third grad), Pierre now in 1st grade, and JáVierre in his second year of preschool.

### Staff view construction of new Max Hayes

CMSD NEWS BUREAU Dozens of teachers and other staff from Max and outdoor spaces where students S. Hayes High School donned hard can undertake construction projects nats and safety glasses on August 11th for a tour of a new building that the school will move to next year.

The new Max Hayes, at West 65th Street and Clark Avenue, will provide a state-of-the-art replacement for the existing school that opened on Detroit Avenue in 1957.

Work is about 65 percent complete, said Gavin Smith, director of construction management for Richard L. Bowen and Associates Inc. Bowen and the Albert M. Higley Construction Co. are partners in a joint venture handling the construction.

The building will soon be enclosed so interior work can continue in cold weather and keep the building on pace to be ready for the 2015-16 school year, Smith said. He said parking lots are to be paved this

The two-story, 170,000-squarefoot building will have space for 800 students. The design includes overhead doors for access to shops, glass-enclosed locations

that show off mechanical systems and operate heavy equipment.

A manufacturing advocacy group, WIRE-Net, with support from the Cleveland and George Gund foundations, led planning for a school that would better meet the demands of the modern workforce.

Supporters believe the new Max Hayes will be among the best career-technical schools in the country.

Chris Scarcella, a curriculum instruction specialist, took the tour on August 11th.

Scarcella said the new building would make teachers more efficient by grouping specialties and linking classrooms to work areas. He said that until the construction began to take shape, teachers were skeptical that they would ever see a new building.

"There's a lot of excitement now," he said. "We want to be that 21st Century learning environment where students are learning but also applying what they have learned."

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### **QUALITY PRESCHOOL OFFERINGS**

continued from page 4

each community." 750 quality spots for four year olds are expected to come through existing preschool programs that are preparing for State of Ohio Step Up to Quality ratings or waiting for results of those ratings.

If the effort is successful, this will mean over 6,000 children ages 3-5 years enrolled in quality preschool classes by the end of 2016. With roughly 16,500 children ages 3-5 currently in Cleveland that would mean serving about just over 36% of Cleveland 3-5 year olds by 2016.

Kelly says, "while the ultimate goal of PRE4CLE is to make highquality preschool available to every preschool-aged child in Cleveland, but we anticipate, based on research from other similar programs the 'take-up rate will be 70%." She says currently serving 70% of all preschool age children in the city of Cleveland would mean serving 11,447 children ages 3-5 years.

### **Funding**

Kelly said the Cleveland has one of the most developed plans to expand and improve preschool in the state of Ohio. She said CMSD is currently using federal Race to the Top Challenge grant dollars to upgrade the quality of its preschool curriculum. In addition, as the CEO mentioned, the Cuyahoga County Universal Prekindergarten program provides PRE4CLE with funding to expand high-quality spaces in existing UPK classrooms and also expand half-day preschool into fullday preschool.

A CMSD News Bureau press release indicates that the school district has committed \$2.5 million

to the PRE4CLE effort this year and Cuyahoga County has committed an additional \$1 million this year.

The goal is to raise \$35 million over the next two years from public and private sources. Kelly expects part of that to come from Federal Preschool Development funds. She says Ohio applied for \$80 million in federal funding to expand preschool programs. Kelly says nationally less than a third of children are in high quality preschool programs. PRE4CLE estimates implementing the preschool expansion will cost \$15 million the first year and \$20 million the second year.

### Pre-school providers

While preschool providers are not required to participate in PRE4CLE, the program says it will offer those that do participate: "financial support for expansion; potential tuition assistance for eligible families; access to professional development for staff; marketing and outreach for their programs; connections to other supports and partnerships; and supports for helping ensure each child's successful transition to kindergarten."

Preschool providers interested in submitting an application to be accepted as a high-quality provider can contact the CMSD Office of Early Childhood Education for more information at 216-838-0231 or download the full report on PRE4CLE at www.clevelandmetroschools.org/ pre4cle.

While the CMSD preschool slots are free to children living in the Cleveland school district, PRE4CLE says funding it receives will provide tuition assistance for quality private preschool slots.

When funding is available, the program also plans to provide assistance with transportation for preschool students.

In addition to providing transportation assistance, PRE4CLE has promised to provide additional preschool classrooms in underserved neighborhoods. The West Boulevard neighborhood and the Brooklyn Centre neighborhood are among the neighborhoods listed as being close to capacity in filling available preschool slots, while the Ohio City neighborhood is listed as a neighborhood with unused capacity. West Boulevard, Central, Glenville, Old Brooklyn, Broadway-Slavic Village and Kamms' Corners are listed as having the city's highest populations of children ages 3-5, totaling 39% of the city's total.

### **Parents**

For information about enrolling in a CMSD preschool parents and guardians can contact CMSD's Office of Early Childhood Education at 216-838-0231 or visit the website at www.clevelandmetroschools. org/pre4cle. For information on the private pre-K openings available, parents or guardians should contact Starting Point at 216-575-0061.

Editor's Note: According to the CMSD News Bureau, The Cleveland Early Childhood Compact picked Starting Point, a referral agency for early childcare in Northeast Ohio, and the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County to manage PRE4CLE. Newly hired PRE4CLE Executive Director Katie Kelly is described as a lifelong Clevelander, and former Executive Director of groundWork, a statewide group that advocates for quality earlychildhood education.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Friday, August 22, 2014; Tremont Montessori Elementary School, 2409 W. 10th Street: Katie Kelly, PRE4CLE's Director, talks about PRE4CLE's goal to eventually provide high quality preschool seats to 70% of the preschool age children in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

### Plain Press

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### Students from local high schools win CMSD scholarships

Two Lincoln West students and one Max Hayes student were among 13 Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) students awarded scholarships at the Army of Believers luncheon on August 1st. Students from citywide magnet schools were awarded the remainder of the

Yu "Mike" Zhang of Lincoln West High School was awarded a \$10,000 scholarship by CMSD Board Chair Denise Link. The scholarship went along with the 2013 Urban Educator of the Year honor Link won at the Council of Great City Schools' annual conference. Zhang, who will study chemical engineering at Ohio State-Mansfield, also received a \$5,000 scholarship from the CMSD's Army of Believers.

Guadaloupe Rogel, also of Lincoln West High School, was awarded a \$5,000 Army of Believers Scholarship. Rogel plans to major in sociology at Columbia University.

Nicholas James Gehler of Max laves, who will study mechanical engineering at Cleveland State University, received a 2014 Eaton Scholarship.

Four students from Cleveland Early College at John Hay received Army of Believer scholarships: Jamekia Nicole Nelson who will major in engineering at Ohio State University-Mansfield; Jennifer Tan Nguyen of who will major in business at John Carroll University; Meilenvs Idbel Peraza who will major in Japanese at Ohio State; and Toneisha Decarla Stubbs who will major in pre-Med at Kenyon

Four students from MC2STEM High received 2014 Eaton Scholarships: Precious Nishea Moore, who will study biology at Hampton University; Brittany Shanee Murphy, who will study mechanical engineering at the University of Akron; Austin Lee Pope, who will study marketing at Bowling Green State University; and Joshua David White, who will study international business at Hawaii Pacific University.

Two John Hay students received the Community Service Scholarship: Toni L. Airaksinen of the School of Architecture and Design at John Hay High, who will study urban studies at Barnard College; and Brittany Hope Kincaid of the School of Science and Medicine at John Hay, who will study psychology at John Carroll University.

The \$5,000 Army of Believer, Eaton and Community Service scholarships were awarded to students with the requirement that they be enrolled in a post-secondary

institution for the 2014-15 school year. The scholarships may be used toward expenses for tuition, books and student housing. The CMSD Scholarship Committee awarded the scholarships based on students' academic record, future plans, goals, exemplary community service, need, a written essay and an interview. The 13 scholarship winners were chosen from 104 applicants. CMSD Chief Academic Officer Christine Fowler Mack presented the scholarships to the students at the scholarship luncheon.

### Lincoln West grad completes Navy basic training

August 20,2014(FHTNC)--Navy Seaman Austin M. Howells, a 2104 graduate of Lincoln West High School recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, III. Howells is the son of Darren L. Seastrand of Cleveland, Ohio.

During the eight-week program, Howells training included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations". This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize attributes of

View the **Plain Press** online at: www.palinpress.org sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of honor, courage and commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a sailor.

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PHOTO BY JOHN CARTWRIGHT

Thursday, August 14, 2014; Ribbon Cutting and Community Celebration of the opening of the Puritas Office of Neighborhood Family Practice, 14037 Puritas Avenue (in Puritas Park Plaza): The staff of the Puritas Office of Neighborhood Family Practice featured above are: James Diekroger, MD; Brandi Dobbs, CNP; Constance Barath, RN; John Jason, Patient Advocate & Office Manager, Faith Walsh, Medical Assistant; and Maryann Kuzila, LPCC Counselor. Not shown: Celeste Curtis, Medical Office Specialist, and Karen Acosta, Medical Assistant.

### WELCOME HOUSE PLANS FOR FRANKLIN BLVD HOME

#### continued from page one

Disabilities currently has "3,400 people waiting for service." He said the 24 places Welcome House hopes to provide are a drop in the bucket compared to the need. Welcome House chose to target those aging out of foster care, because it is a group of people that "don't have family and have no place to go."

Welcome House, which currently runs 31 group homes for individuals with developmental disabilities, already has some clients that were referred to its facilities as young people aging out of foster care. Thomas said he knows of their special needs for counseling and mental health services. He says often the young people have been in multiple foster homes while growing up. They often haven't been exposed to very much good

parenting during those experiences.

Thomas believes the new facility at the Rhodes House will be unique in the State of Ohio in serving only developmentally disabled young adults aging out of foster care. Referrals to the new apartments will come from the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Thomas says Welcome House will work with the County Board of Developmental Disabilities to help the young adults make the transition from the foster care system to a highly supportive apartment building. Thomas said the nice thing about working with the County Board is that Welcome House will often know a year or two ahead of time when a referral is to be made.

He says Welcome House will partner with Linking Employment Abilities and Potential (LEAP) to help the young residents secure employment. He envisions LEAP employment counselors working with clients during the day and a Direct Support Professional from Welcome House working with clients in the evening on community living skills and support. The facility will be staffed 24 hours a day to provide a safe, secure, environment for residents.

Thomas says the length of stay of residents at Welcome House depends on the individual. Some individuals may be able to move out on their own, others may stay at Welcome House for life. Thomas says Welcome House continues to offer services to those that move out on their own, offering them a long term support system creating a community around them. Welcome House makes sure they are in a safe place, they have a good lease and sufficient income to pay their expenses.

With strong advocacy from County Council representative

# Retired Cleveland teacher speaks out about tragedy in the Ukraine

by Chuck Hoven

Retired after 31 years of teaching history in Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Bill Arthrell, finds himself once again giving lectures in front of groups of people. Arthrell, who taught high school history at both Rhodes and John Marshall high schools, has become an advocate for the Ukraine, which he describes as "a country fighting for its entire survival."

Arthrell hopes the multi-media presentation he is willing to deliver to various groups or classes of students will inspire Americans to "ask our government to do more to help the Ukraine."

Arthrell's presentation, titled *Ukraine 2014:Revolution, War and Putin* compares what is happening today in the Ukraine to some of the momentous moments in human history such as the American and French revolutions and the struggle of African Americans in the Untied States for civil rights.

At a presentation at Mac's Backs Coventry Bookstore on August 20<sup>th</sup>, Arthrell noted some of the history of the development of Slavic culture in the Ukraine and how the Ukrainian people have been conquered and dominated by various powers over the centuries.

Arthrell talks of the vote of the Ukrainians for independence from the USSR in 1991 and the series

of pro Russian oligarchs that dominated the country until the recent revolution.

Sharing some of his own life history, Arthrell says he, sometimes feels like Forrest Gump – finding himself participating in historical events. He notes he was a student at Kent State on May 4, 1970 during the anti-war demonstration, he protested outside the White House when President Richard Nixon resigned, and participated in protests at the Democratic Convention in Chicago in 1968.

In October of 2013 Arthrell says he was visiting Ukraine and having a bowl of Borscht soup at the Maidon or Square in Kiev when he observed and joined a huge demonstration. The demonstrators were protesting Ukrainian President Victor Yanokovych's decision to switch sides after promising to align with the European Union, and instead aligning with Russia and Vladimir Putin.

Back in the United States after his trip to the Ukraine, Arthrell watched news accounts of the Ukraine as the demonstration he participated in turned into a revolution that ousted Yanokovych from power. On a visit to the Ukrainian Village in Parma, Ohio, Arthrell says he joined the Maidan Committee and was recruited to be

continued on page 8

Yvonne Conwell, late last year Cuyahoga County Council voted to approve Welcome House's proposal for the site on Franklin Blvd. The site includes two buildings the Robert Russell Rhodes House (2905 Franklin) and the Nelson Stanford House (just east of the Rhodes House). Welcome House then purchased the site. Thomas said the County insisted those bidding on the site, bid for the entire site.

The Rhodes House, says Thomas, will work well for what Welcome House proposes. He says the front area – currently the public area for the Cuyahoga County Archives -- will serve as office space for program staff, a game room for the young adults and a meeting room, which he hopes to make available on occasion for the neighborhood

block club. The area in the rear, which now serves as storage area for the County Archives, will be converted into apartments for the young adults referred to Welcome House.

Thomas says the Rhodes House "is a well laid out building for apartments." He noted that it is interesting that the Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation (the predecessor of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities) in the late 1960s and early 1970s used the Rhodes House as a school for youth with developmental disabilities.

The Stanford House is more suitable for office space than apartments, said Thomas. Because Welcome House already has a

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### WELCOME HOUSE SEEKS FUNDING

continued from page 6

long-term lease in Westlake for its headquarters, it is looking to work with Ohio City Inc. to find suitable office tenants for the Stanford House, said Thomas.

If Welcome House is successful in securing the funding to convert the Rhodes Building into use as apartments for its clients, Thomas expects work on the building at 2905 Franklin will begin in early 2016 and the facility will be able to open in mid 2016. Thomas says Welcome House has applications pending for both Federal and State Historic Tax Credits, an application for funding from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency and an application at the Federal Home Loan Bank in Cincinnati, which uses funds from bank fees to fund affordable housing programs.

Welcome House has already received approval from the City of Cleveland for funds from its Housing Trust Fund. Thomas says when 50% of the funding has been secured, Welcome House, along with their lending partner First Merit Bank, will feel comfortable moving forward on the project.

In the meantime, the Cuyahoga County Archives must begin moving their documents to a new location. Thomas said he believes that process will take about six months and begin sometime next year. Lenay Stevers, a Cuyahoga County Archives staff member, says the tentative plan is for the archives to be moved to the former Halle Warehouse at E. 40th and Perkins. She says the public will continue to have access to the archives at the new location.

Welcome House thus far has been successful in gaining the support it needs to create a supportive environment for young adults with developmental disabilities aging out of the foster care system. It gained the necessary support in the Cuyahoga County Council to win approval for its proposal. It successfully navigated the Board of Zoning Appeals to gain 5-0 approval of the variances needed for the

program to locate at the site. The Franklin Clinton Block Club, the neighborhood block club, voted its support for the proposal. The Board of Ohio City Inc, the local development corporation, voted 18-1 to support the proposal.

Despite these successes obstacles still remain. Ward 3 Councilman Joe Cimperman, a strong supporter of Welcome House's proposal, says neighborhood residents had ample opportunity for public discussion of the proposal at over a dozen community meetings. Most of those that have heard the proposal are supportive and ready to welcome Welcome House to the neighborhood, he said.

However, Cimperman is concerned that two or three individuals dissatisfied with the proposal are trying to disrupt its funding. He pointed out an anonymous email he said is filled with erroneous information that was being circulated in Ohio City. He said the same individuals have been lobbying the funding sources downstate to turn down the funding applications submitted by Welcome House.

The email circulated, for example mentions the high poverty rate in the census tract where Welcome House would be located to try to make the case that the Rhodes House would be isolating its clients in a high crime, low income neighborhood. The email makes a general reference high crime areas and the economic segregation of poor people. The email while mentioning the poverty rate in an attempt to paint the picture of economic segregation, fails to mention the economic integration of the Ohio City census tract 1036.02 where Welcome House would be located. In addition to having a good number of poor households, the census track also has a good number of households with incomes over \$100,000.

Cimperman is fearful that a proposal to serve people with "cognitive disabilities that are coming to the neighborhood because they have no place else to go", may get shot down "because unfortunately



Thursday, August 21, 2014; Rhodes House, currently home to the Cuyahoga County Archives, 2905 Franklin Blvd: Cuyahoga County has recently sold this building to Welcome House and plans to move the archives to an alternative location. Cuyahoga County Archives' staff member Lenay Stevers says a tentative location proposed to house the archives is the former Halle warehouse at E. 40th and Perkins.

sometimes the negativity" is what influences the funders to say no.

Thomas said Welcome House has become aware of the opposition. He said neighborhood residents

and organizations in support of Welcome House "have sent letters out to counter this stuff." He said he counted 17 public meetings, including meetings with Ohio City Block Clubs, where he spoke about the project. He said when people had concerns about the project, "I thought I did a good job of changing perceptions of people."

### COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

### PUBLIC FORUM

GORDON SQUARE ARTS DIS-TRICT (GSAD) is hosting another Public Forum for its Community Master Plan for the next phase of physical, economic and artistic growth of the district. All members of the community are invited, and reservations are not needed. Community participation is critical to the success of the planning effort, and feedback is important and welcome. A second public forum will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at smart Space, 78th Street Studios, 1300 W. 78th Street. Check in will be from 6 - 6:30 p.m. and the session will run from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Opportunities for community input and interaction will also be available online beginning on August 28. For more information contact Theresa Schneider at tschneider@gordonsquare.org or 216-961-4242 x222.

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# St. Helena baptizes first African American in 108-year history of the church

by Chuck Hoven

On August 3, 2014 Antwain Thomas became the first African American to be baptized at St. Helena Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church in the 108-year history of the church. Romanian is the language still used today to say

the Mass in the Church, which was founded by Romanian immigrants in 1905.

Thomas's Godfather at the ceremony, Jack Craciun III, relates the story of how Thomas came to be baptized at St. Helena.

Craciun said Thomas is interning

at his company, the ITM Group, where Craciun serves as Chairman and CEO.

Craciun, who has family roots in the St. Helena Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church, was back in the neighborhood after many years overseas. Members of St. Helena,

and the parish's new priest reached out to Craciun to help out. The parish had recently experienced a crisis due to a scandal involving the former pastor and was working to recover from its aftereffects. The recruiting effort involved a Cleveland police officer, a member of the parish, pulling Craciun over as he drove through the neighborhood and telling him "Father needs you at St. Helena."

Craciun and Thomas soon became involved in the formation of the Saint Helena Community and Property Development Committee (SHCPDC). Craciun is serving as the Executive Chairman of the SHCPDC and Thomas is serving as Secretary of the committee.

As they became more involved, they were invited to the ceremony of the installation of Father Petru Stanea as the new parish priest on May 18, 2014. Stana, who arrived at the parish from Romania, had written his graduate thesis on St. Helena, the first Byzantine Catholic Church in the Americas. They also attended Fr. Stanea's 40th birthday celebration.

After one of the celebrations, Thomas, inspired by the beauty of the liturgy of the Mass and the hospitality of the parish as they feasted on Romanian food after the Mass, asked Craciun if he could be baptized in the church. Thomas also told Craciun, his mentor at ITM Group, that he wanted to be baptized in the same church where Craciun had been baptized.

The baptismal ceremony of Antwain Thomas followed a mass in Romanian celebrated by Fr. Petru Stanea and Fr. Chuck Works.

Jack Craciun III served as Godfather, and Vicky Prior served as Godmother. Because of his age, Craciun insisted that there be an Alternate Godfather. Robert Weakley, who had recruited Thomas for the internship at the ITM Group, served as the Alternate Godfather and Lorinda Laughlin Plank, also with ITM Group served as the Alternate Godmother.

Thomas also received his First Communion and Confirmation at the August 3rd ceremony. After the ceremony Fr. Stanea revealed that the baptism was his first at his new

### **CRISIS IN UKRAINE**

continued from page 6

an international election observer during the Ukrainian Presidential Election in May of 2014.

Upon his return trip to the Ukraine as an election monitor, Arthrell says he got a chance to observe first hand the estate of the former president Yankovych and the evidence of the lavish lifestyle he lived while many in the Ukraine lived in poverty.

Arthrell, also a poet, shared some of his poetry during his trips and developed a relationship with the people of the Ukraine. He plans to once again return to the Ukraine in October of this year as an international election monitor for the Ukrainian parliamentary elections.

Editor's Note: Bill Arthrell, when not out of the country monitoring international elections, is available to talk to groups about the crisis in the Ukraine. He can be reached by phone at 216-618-3500.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, August 3, 2014; St. Helena Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church, 1367 W. 65th Street: Antwain Anthony Thomas (white robe) prior to being baptized and confirmed with the name "John". At the ceremony Thomas also received his first communion. Also pictured are: Godfather Jack Craciun III, Alternate Godmother Lorinda Laughlin Plank. Thomas is the first person to be baptized by Fr. Petru Stanea since his arrival as the new pastor at St. Helena Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church. He is also the first African American to be baptized at the 108 year old Byzantine Catholic Church.



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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, August 3, 2014; St. Helena Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church, 1367 W. 65th Street: Fr. Petru Stanea Antwain confirms Anthony Thomas (white robe) while Godfather Jack Craciun III and Alternate Godfather Robert Weakley kneel at his side.