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# Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

## Cleveland Teachers Union President David Quolke initiates discussion with community on education policy & parent concerns

by Chuck Hoven

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, Cleveland Teachers Union (CTU) President David Quolke and CTU First Vice President Tracy Radich met with parents and other community members to discuss school policy and to address parents' concerns about their child's education. Quolke tackled some tough questions and concerns of parents and brought up some issues related to educational policy in the State of Ohio. Radich came armed with information about the new Common Core curriculum

adopted in Ohio, the new tests that will accompany it and some tips to make children into "Life-long Learners."

The breakfast meeting, organized by Common Good Ohio, is the first of what Quolke hopes will be an ongoing opportunity for community members to dialogue with the Cleveland Teachers Union leadership. The meeting was held at Phillipi Missionary Baptist Church in the John Adams school neighborhood. Common Good organizer Rowena Ventura plans a

second meeting for December 13<sup>th</sup>, to be held in the Lincoln West High School neighborhood. A site has not yet been confirmed.

Quolke told the twenty people in attendance at the meeting that he hopes to learn from community members "what types of information you don't get from the district, that you should get."

Parents of an eighth grade child in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District brought a whole range of issues for Quolke to address. They wanted to know which high schools

### Plans underway to complete northern section of Towpath Trail

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, about 150 people took the opportunity to view the proposed path for the missing links in the towpath trail as it winds its way along a five-mile stretch from Harvard Road to the proposed Canal Basin Park. A Towpath Trail Open House held at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in the Tremont neighborhood offered views of maps of the proposed route, some details about the funding of the \$57 million dollar project and timelines for completion of the various stages. Members of the Towpath Trail

Management Committee from the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Cleveland Metroparks and Canalway Partners were on hand to answer questions.

The first stage of the extension will start from the completed Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail by Harvard Avenue, cross Harvard at grade then head through a piece of industrial land toward a new pedestrian bridge which will cross the Cuyahoga River in the valley under the Harvard Denison Bridge. On the west side of the river, an elevated and canopied

structure underneath the span of the Harvard Denison Bridge will proceed north over train tracks and industrial land then meet up with the existing one mile long trail at Steelyard Commons. The three quarter mile trail from Harvard to Steelyard Commons is projected to be complete in 2019.

On the north end of the Steelyard trail, a new path will run along the west side of Clark Fields and along the side of I-490, and take a turn up

continued on page 4

in their neighborhood would have the Closing the Achievement Gap Program they wanted their child to participate in when he attends high school next year. Quolke also talked with them about their concerns and dissatisfaction with the Individual Education Program designed for their son. Quolke offered to connect the parents with Jessica Baldwin the Cleveland Metropolitan Schools District's new Executive Director of Special Education to seek her help in resolving the issue.

Several requests from the community were put forth and Quolke promised to bring them to the attention of Cleveland Metropolitan School District Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon at their weekly meeting.

Following a presentation by CTU First Vice President Radich on the Performance Based Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers – the series of tests that accompany the Common Core Curriculum, one parent asked for a hotline to help her assist her son with preparation for the tests. She wanted to be able to ask someone "Can you explain this question, so I can explain it

to my child?" She also asked for a place where parents could access a computer to work with their children in studying for the test. She noted the lines at the library for computer access often resulted in a long wait to use the computer.

Quolke promised to bring the issue to CEO Gordon's attention and he suggested that retired CTU members may be a good source for the CMSD to tap to help with this effort. Common Good Ohio Organizer Rowena Ventura said she saw it as Common Good's responsibility to find resources "where you can get assistance as parents."

She also urged parents to work with the organization to pressure the state of Ohio to place dollars in the budget to offer assistance to parents.

Radich offered those present some helpful websites where students could practice math, science, reading and social studies.

Bishop Eugene Ward brought up two areas of concern to Quolke. He expressed concern about the gutting of the tech preparation programs in the school district such as wood

continued on page 7

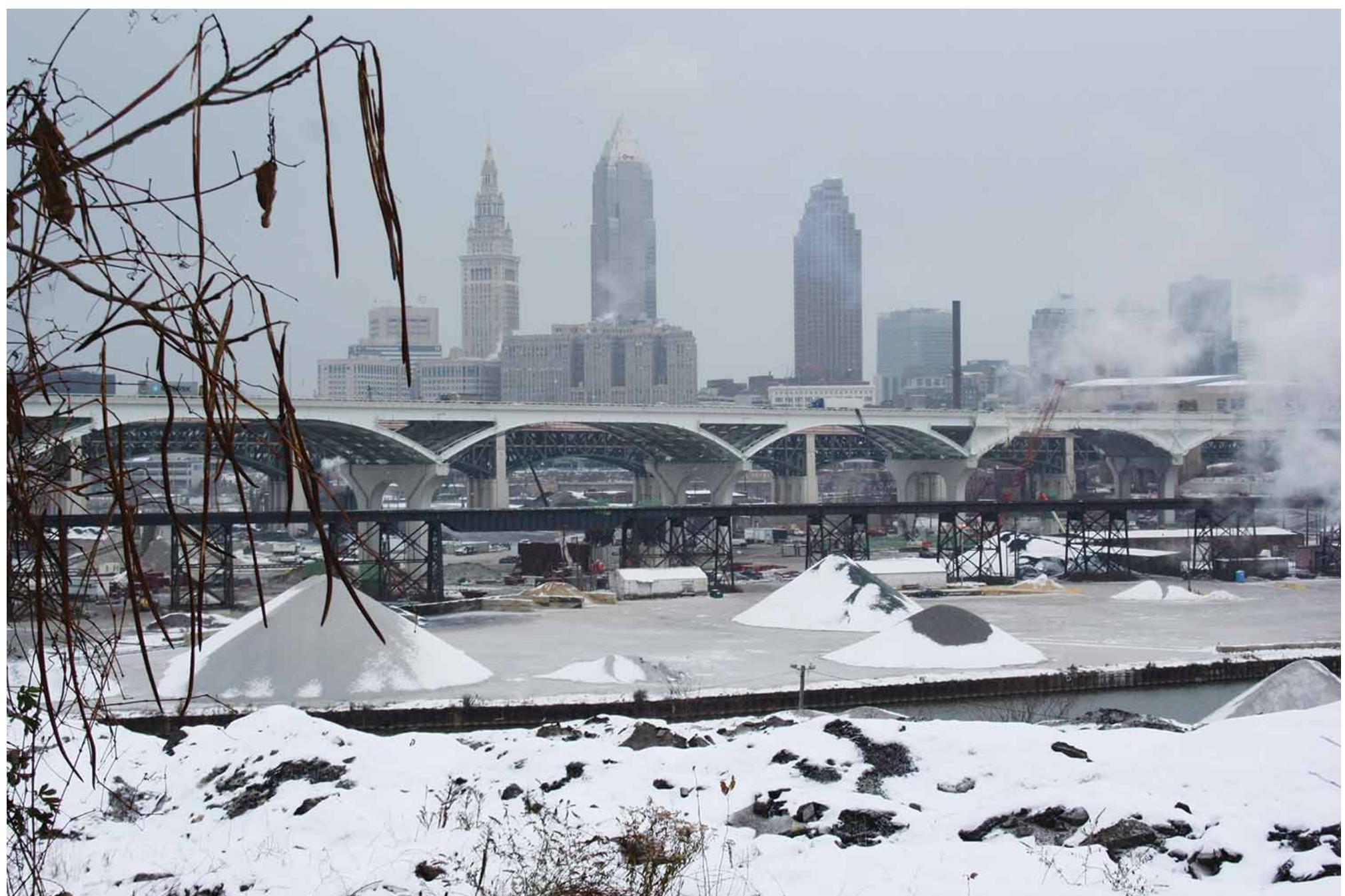


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, November 19, 2014; University Road at W. 10<sup>th</sup>, Tremont neighborhood: A view of the Industrial Flats and Downtown Cleveland from University Road on the proposed path for one of the new sections of the Towpath Trail. This section of the trail from Literary Avenue to a new Canal Basin Park is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2018.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, November 19, 2014; West Side Market, W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue: Terry Leu of Rolston Poultry, Stand D-8, holds up an Amish Fresh Young Turkey awaiting purchase on a day when a blast of artic weather postponed Thanksgiving grocery shopping for many Clevelanders.



## The Community Board

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.

### ARTS

**A CHRISTMAS ART SHOW** will be held at the Bruno Casiano Gallery at 5304 Detroit Ave. through December 31. The gallery is open Saturdays from 11 am to 2 pm or by appointment. For more information, call Bruno Casiano at 216/346-6562 or email him at [brunocasiano892@gmail.com](mailto:brunocasiano892@gmail.com)

**THIRD FRIDAYS** of the month from 5 to 9 pm at the 78<sup>th</sup> Street Studios, at the west end of the Gordon Square Arts District in Cleveland. Also, every Friday from 11 am to 4 pm there is a smaller open house at the Studios. Visit <http://78thstreetstudios.com/about>.

**TREMONT ART WALK** is held on

the second Friday of the month from 6 to 10 pm. For more information, log onto <http://tremontartwalk.com>

### CLEAN FUELS

**CLEAN FUELS OHIO** is a nonprofit with the mission to improve air quality and health, reduce environmental pollution and strengthen Ohio's economy by increasing the use of cleaner, domestic fuels and energy-saving vehicles. **Clean Cities** advances the nation's environmental, economic, and energy security by supporting local actions to cut petroleum use in transportation. A national network of Clean Cities coalitions brings together stakeholders in the public and private sectors to deploy alternative and renewable

fuels, idle-reduction measures, fuel economy improvements, and new transportation technologies as they emerge. Learn more about Clean Cities at [cleancities.energy.gov](http://cleancities.energy.gov), find out how to get involved with the Clean Fuels Ohio at [cleanfuelsohio.org](http://cleanfuelsohio.org), or contact Tia Garcia/Clean Fuels Ohio at 614-884-7336 or [Tia@cleanfuelsohio.org](mailto:Tia@cleanfuelsohio.org)

### COMPUTER TRAINING

**FREE BEGINNER COMPUTER TRAINING** for neighborhood residents is offered at the Connect Your Community Center at 3800 Pearl Road. 12-hour FREE training on basic computer and Internet use from 2-4 pm Tuesday and Thursday or 2-4 pm Wednesday and Friday. Learn to use email, Web browser, Google, You Tube, Yahoo etc. Low-cost refurbished computers are available for Center students. Call 216/202-4292 and leave a message. They will call you back within 24 hours.

### EDGEWATER PARK

**CLEVELAND METROPARKS** is working on a multi-year strategic plan for the lakefront parks and is enlisting input from the community. The meeting about Edgewater Park, including plans for a new beach house, will be held from 5-7 pm with special presentations at 5:15 and 6 pm, on Tuesday, December 2 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in the gym at 1355 West 70<sup>th</sup> St. For more information, visit [clevelandmetroparks.com](http://clevelandmetroparks.com) or call 216/635-3200.

### FLU SHOTS

**FLU SHOTS** are available at McCafferty Health Center at 4242 Lorain Ave. every Friday from 8:30 am-11:30 am. Bring your card if you have health insurance. If you don't have insurance, no problem! No one

will be turned away. Call 216/651-5005 with questions.

### HEALTH INSURANCE

**FOR HEALTH INSURANCE** under the Affordable Care Act ("ObamaCare"), visit [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) or call 800/318-2596. Or for an in-person appointment, call Neighborhood Family Practice at 216/281-0872, at 3569 Ridge Rd. or call 211 for referrals to other counseling sites. Deadlines are December 15, 2014: The last date to enroll for coverage that starts January 1, 2015. December 31, 2014: Date when all 2014 Marketplace coverage ends, no matter when you enrolled. January 1, 2015: The date 2015 coverage can start if you apply by December 15, 2014, or if you accept automatic enrollment in your 2014 plan or a similar plan.

February 15, 2015: The last day to enroll in 2015 coverage. If you miss this deadline, you can't sign up for a health plan inside or outside the Marketplace for the rest of 2015. The only exception is if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period.

**MEDICAID** is available for low income Ohioans. Apply online at <https://benefits.ohio.gov> or call 1-800/324-8680. Adults with income up to 138 percent of poverty level may now apply.

**MEDICARE** open enrollment period is from October 15 to December 7 and the State's nonprofit Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) is available to assist Medicare recipients review their options and select Medicare coverage for 2015. Plan costs and benefits can change from year to year. A Check-up Days schedule and other Medicare information is available at [www.insurance.ohio.gov](http://www.insurance.ohio.gov), or by calling the OSHIIIP hotline at 800/686-1578 or Medicare at 800/633-4227

### HEATING ASSISTANCE

**THE WINTER CRISIS PROGRAM**, a component of the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), provides assistance to eligible households that are threatened with heating disconnection, or have been disconnected. The gross income of eligible households must be at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. For a family of four the annual income must be at or below \$41,737.50. Individuals interested in receiving Winter Crisis assistance must have a face-to-face interview at their Winter Crisis Program provider. Cuyahoga County providers are the Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland (216/696-9077) and the Cleveland Housing Network (216/574-7100). Ohioans also can call the ODSA toll-free hotline at (800) 282-0880, Monday through Friday (hearing impaired customers may dial (800) 686-1557 for assistance) or visit [energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov) for more information.

**THE WINTER RECONNECT ORDER** of The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, allows residential customers the opportunity to have their service restored or maintained by paying the amount due or \$175, whichever is less. If the customer's service has already been disconnected, the customer must pay the \$175 and possibly a reconnection fee of no more than \$36 to restore service. Customers may use the program once during the winter heating season between Oct. 20, 2014 and April 15, 2015. There is no income eligibility requirement or sign-up required for the Winter Reconnect Order. Customers who have questions about the PUCO winter heating season reconnect program may contact the PUCO at 1-800-686-PUCO (7826).

**OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS** are available to assist those who qualify. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and The Ohio Development Services Agency suggest that customers explore all options including PIPP Plus, HEAP and the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP). More information about these programs and additional ways to save on home heating bills this winter is available at Ohio's Winter Heating Resource website [www.winterheat.ohio.gov](http://www.winterheat.ohio.gov) or at [energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov).

**THE HEAP OFFICE** at Stockyard, Clark-Fulton and Brooklyn Center is scheduling appointments. Call 216/518-4014. No walk-in clients until further notice.

### HOLIDAY PARTIES

**MAY DUGAN CENTER'S 5TH ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY** is scheduled for Thursday, December 4th from 5-7pm at the May Dugan Center at 4115 Bridge Ave. Free and open to the public. Volunteers are needed

**THE DETROIT SHOREWAY HOLIDAY PARTY** will take place on Saturday, December 6th from noon to 3pm at the Gordon Square Arcade located at 6516 Detroit Avenue. Participants will have the opportunity to have their picture taken with Santa, enjoy refreshments, and children will go home with a small gift bag. For more information, phone call (216) 961-4242 ext. 243 or email [aboyer@dscdo.org](mailto:aboyer@dscdo.org)

**VARIOUS HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES** are listed at Tremont West's website <http://tremontwest.org/index/news-app?story=87>

### PETS

**FREE SPAY AND NEUTER SERVICES**, as well as vaccinations, are available on December 11 at the Cleveland Animal Protective League at 1729 Willey Ave. for residents of 44102 and 44109 zip codes. A limited number of appointments are available. To register, call 216/377-1624.

### POLICE

**POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE** for the second district is held every second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at the Applewood Center at the corner of West 25<sup>th</sup> and Daisy. Call 216/623-5220 with questions.

**STOCKYARD CLARK FULTON BROOKLYN CENTRE** PROVIDE YOUR INPUT ON THE FUTURE OF CLARK AVE. Complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ClarkAveSurvey> or attend the next public meeting on the Clark Avenue Corridor plan on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at Clark Recreation Center.

### TAX PREPARATION

**LEARN TO BE A TAX PREPARATION VOLUNTEER.** The Cuyahoga Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition provides free training to help greet clients and prepare taxes, helping low income families get tax refunds. Over 25 Cuyahoga County locations. No experience necessary. Sign up by logging onto [www.refundohio.org](http://www.refundohio.org). For more information, contact Keely Andrews at [kandrews@enterprisecommunity.org](mailto:kandrews@enterprisecommunity.org)

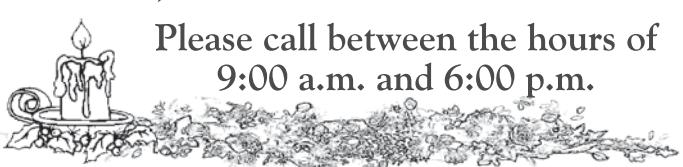
### TUTORS

**HIGH SCHOOL TUTORS** are needed to volunteer in math, science, English, and social studies at the Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy in the Fulton/Clark Ave. neighborhood for 4-8 hours weekly Monday- Friday between 8 am and 3 pm. Call Ms. Mason at 216/961-5631 if you are interested.

## Christmas Dinner

There will be a delicious Christmas dinner served at St. Augustine Church, 2486 West 14 St., on Christmas day from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. If you are homebound and unable to attend, please call 216-781-5880 and we will make arrangements for a meal to be delivered right to your door. Requests for Christmas Dinner will be taken up until 12 Noon, December 24, Christmas Eve.

Please call between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.



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## Cleveland Clerk of Courts employees' donation brightens Thanksgiving Day celebration for La Sagrada Familia Church

In October, employees of the Cleveland Clerk of Courts office donated \$500, plus 10 boxes of canned goods to La Sagrada Familia Church on Detroit Ave. The employees have been raising money for the donation since hearing that someone robbed the church of money, equipment, and food for the poor this summer. "Some of our employees said, how can we help?", said Cleveland Clerk of Courts Earle Turner. "Our employees contribute monthly for charities in exchange for the privilege of dressing business casual."

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, someone stole from the Roman Catholic Church,

### Orange Blossom Press closes doors after 39 years

After 39 years, Orange Blossom Press has closed its doors. The print shop opened as a worker co-op in 1976. The business later evolved into an employee owned business with a majority partner.

A sign on the door of the now closed business at 1935 W. 25<sup>th</sup> reads "After 39 years... of serving the social justice, non profit, political, union, personal & commercial communities here in Ohio City, Orange Blossom Press is moving on to the big print shop in the sky and closing our doors. It has been a great run and we thank you for all of your support for so many years. It has been a real pleasure."

Majority Owner Greg Pratt cites declining budgets and belt tightening

### Brownuts takes second place in Council of Smaller Enterprises' Small Business Pitch Competition

Brownuts, a small business start-up operating out of the storefront of Tremont West Development Corporation's building at 2406 Professor Avenue, won a second place prize of \$10,000 in the Council of Smaller Enterprises' (COSE) Small Business Pitch Competition. In addition to the cash prize, Brownuts will receive a one-year complementary membership to COSE and access to all its products and services. Brownuts, started by Shelley Fasulko and John Pippin, makes craft beer infused donuts.

Brownuts was one of more than

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Lou Tisler, Executive Director



PHOTO BY OBED W. SHELTON

October 2014; La Sagrada Familia Church, 7719 Detroit Ave: Fr. Robert Reidy of La Sagrada Familia Church (far left) accepts a money and food donation from Clerk of Courts Earle B. Turner (3<sup>rd</sup> from right), and members of the employees' committee "We Care". The donation was made in the same church kitchen from which thieves stole food last June. From left to right: Fr. Robert Reidy, Mariselle Rivera (Human Resources Administrator), Shonda Jenkins (Supervisor Criminal Division), Dwight Lacey (Chief of Security) Earle B. Turner (Clerk of Courts), Delissica Crosby (Chief Deputy Clerk), and Mary Wooden (Chief Deputy Clerk).

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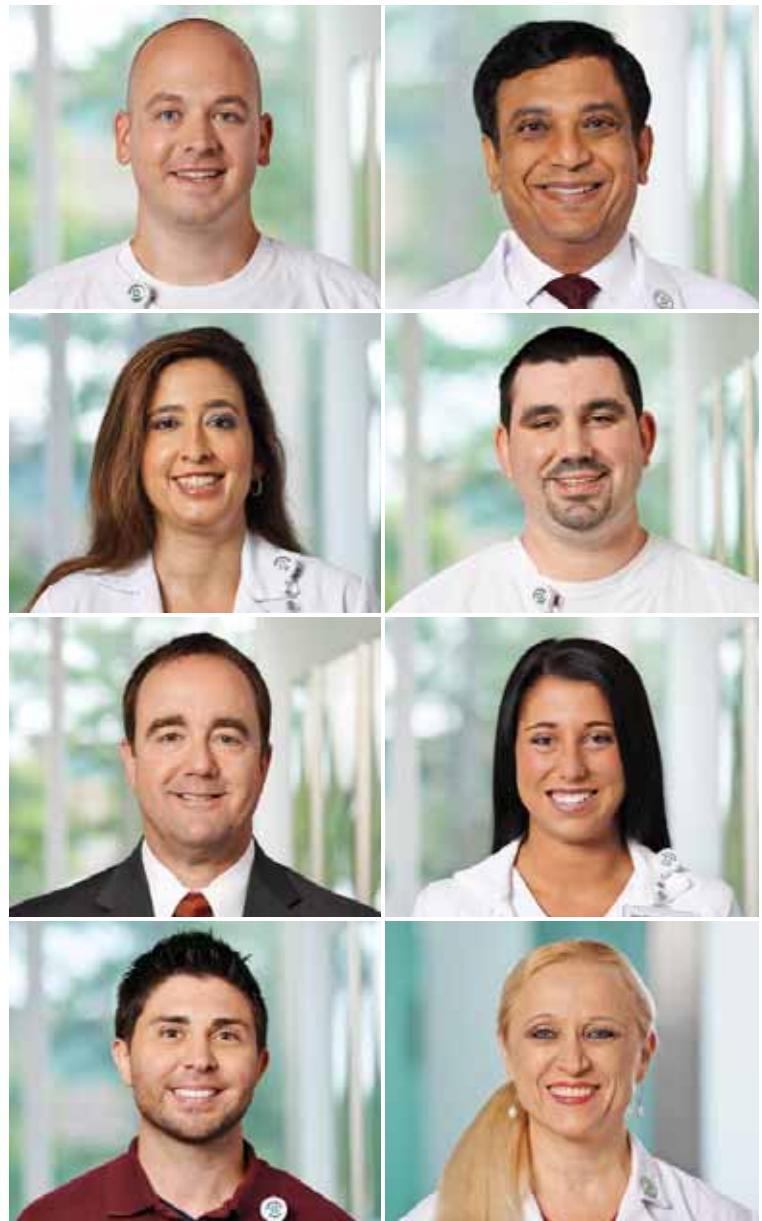
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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, November 1, 2014; Dia De Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration, Cleveland Public Theatre Parish Hall, 6205 Detroit Avenue: Moira Hough, age 11 carries a tattered umbrella.

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## Federal officials applaud Cleveland's efforts to expand access to quality preschool programs

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro and Roberto J. Rodríguez, Special Assistant to the President for Education, came to Cleveland on October 28th to applaud PRE4CLE's efforts to enroll more children in high-quality preschool and to preview a new national campaign that will focus on early education. Their visit comes shortly after the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a grant application to states for a substantial federal investment in high-quality early childhood education. The State of Ohio submitted an application for a \$80 million federal investment across the state under this grant earlier this month, and specifically named Cleveland, and PRE4CLE, as one of the communities that is ready to expand high quality early education to its children.

PRE4CLE is a plan to expand access to high-quality preschool programs to children in the City of Cleveland and is a major next step in implementing Cleveland's Plan for Transforming Schools. Starting in the 2014-2015 school year, PRE4CLE will increase the number of high quality preschool spaces available for four year olds in the City of Cleveland. The plan will be rolled out to three year olds at a later date. For more information, visit [www.clevelandmetroschools.org/pre4cle](http://clevelandmetroschools.org/pre4cle).

PRE4CLE hosted the roundtable discussion that brought together Ohio leaders in philanthropy, business and the public sector to discuss the importance of investing in early education initiatives, like PRE4CLE, that ensure all children and families have the opportunity to succeed in school and life.

## TOWPATH TRAIL

continued from page one

W. 4<sup>th</sup> to Literary Avenue. This 1.9 stretch of trail should be finished in the summer of 2017.

From that point a fourth stage of the trail will begin with a proposed bridge over Literary Avenue. The trail will proceed along University Avenue, which will be closed to traffic other than driveway access for residents, emergency vehicle access, and parking for Sokolowski's University Inn patrons. From Sokolowski's the path will go downhill through land now set aside for the Inner Belt Bridge construction. The Ohio Department of Transportation has promised to complete a roughly 1200-foot area of trail under the new George Voinovich Bridge. ODOT will also create two fifty-space parking lots and a pocket park in this area when it is finished with the bridge construction. This will serve as a trailhead where visitors can park.

From this point the trail will head north to an already completed eight tenths of a mile section of the trail called Scranton Flats. The trail then heads to Carter Road and crosses the Cuyahoga River on the Carter Road Bridge. The path will then go underneath Columbus Road and end at the future home of Canal Basin Park where the city of Cleveland plans to build a visitor center and recreation area. This part of the towpath trail is projected to be complete by fall of 2018.

**Editor's Note:** A map and additional information on the proposed trail extensions can be viewed on the Canalway Partners website at [canalwaypartners.com](http://canalwaypartners.com) under the Towpath in Cleveland tab.

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## OCI's new Executive Director Tom McNair shares insights on neighborhood development

by Chuck Hoven

Addressing the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Randall/Whitman/John/Woodbine Block Club, Ohio City Incorporated's (OCI) new Executive Director Tom McNair said he was excited about his new role at an "exciting time" with the recent completion of a new strategic plan for the neighborhood.

McNair, who previously served as Director of Economic Development and Planning at OCI, said that over 70 new businesses have opened in the West Side Market District over the past five years reducing the business vacancy rate from 40% down to just 2%.

Praising the inclusiveness of the new OCI strategic plan, McNair said that over 900 responses were gathered from surveys distributed in both English and Spanish. He said the ambitious plan for the neighborhood focuses on people.

McNair praised a new safety audit program that collaborates with the Second District Police as one innovative program. He cited the Near West Recreation program as an example of the people focus of Ohio City Inc. McNair said the organization has grown from serving about eighty kids just two years ago to serving over 750 children this past year.

McNair said, there is demand for an additional 1,500 housing units in the neighborhood. He said apartments in the neighborhood are nearly 100% leased. He talked

## St. Malachi — Parish —

West 25th & Detroit Ave.  
Cleveland 44113

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!  
• MASS SCHEDULE •

DEC. 24<sup>th</sup>  
4:30PM, & 10PM

DEC. 25<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 AM & 11:30 AM

DEC. 31<sup>st</sup>  
4:30PM

JAN. 1<sup>st</sup>  
9:00 AM & 11:30 AM

## ST. JOHN CANTIUS CHURCH

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CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. .... English  
11:30 p.m. .... Concert Choir  
(Polish & English)  
12:00 Midnight... Bi-Lingual

THURSDAY DECEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>

9:30 a.m. .... Polish  
11:30 a.m. .... English

## ST. PATRICK, BRIDGE CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve

Confessions: 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Children's Mass: 4:30 p.m.

Midnight Mass:

Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.

Christmas Day

Masses: 8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

about a development strategy along Lorain Avenue that included live/work units above storefronts in historical buildings and filling in businesses along the commercial corridor. He said the strategy along Lorain Avenue included a pedestrian retail overlay zone -- a two-way bicycle track on the north side of the street. He cited Indianapolis as an example of having a working two-way bicycle track.

The strategy along Detroit Avenue is different, said McNair. He said Detroit Avenue allows more opportunities for more dense development. He suggested that midrise apartment 4 or 5 stories tall could be placed in the Ohio City area of Detroit Avenue. He cited a development at W. 32<sup>nd</sup> and Detroit as an example.

McNair talked about the need for more family friendly 3 or 4 bedroom houses on land bank lots in the neighborhood by sharing his own unsuccessful effort to find a house in the neighborhood.

Sharing the business development strategy of Ohio City Inc., McNair said there are over 250 small businesses in the neighborhood and OCI makes an effort to help place the right business in the right spot. He challenged the perception in the neighborhood that the development strategy consists of bringing in bars and restaurants. He said that there are fewer bars in the neighborhood now than when he started as a staff member at OCI.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, November 1, 2014; Dia De Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration, Cleveland Public Theatre Parish Hall, 6205 Detroit Avenue: This family takes time out for a photo as they wait for the start of the Day of the Dead procession on Detroit Avenue.

He said of about 70 new businesses in the neighborhood, OCI was involved in helping about one quarter of them. He noted that it is a private market and OCI didn't have control over all the spaces in the neighborhood. He said community members have some input on development because they have the right to object to liquor licenses and to object to variances.

continued on page 7



**Franklin Circle Christian Church**  
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Celebration Every Sunday

**Holiday Music Extravaganza**  
Thursday, December 18 @ 7 p.m.  
The Choir of Franklin Circle Christian Church & Lake Catholic High School Band and Choruses

**Christmas Eve Service @ 7 p.m.**  
Wednesday, December 24

1688 Fulton Rd., Cleveland ~ 216-781-8232  
[www.FranklinCircleChurch.org](http://www.FranklinCircleChurch.org)

## Merry Christmas!

Our Neighborhood Churches  
Welcome You

\*\*\*\*\*

## St. Augustine Church

2486 West 14<sup>th</sup> St. - 216-781-5530

### Special Children's Eve Liturgy

welcoming especially for deaf and disabled children  
4:00 p.m.

### Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

5:30 p.m.

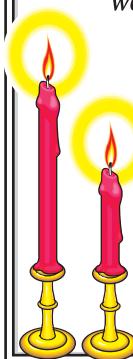
### Midnight Mass

12:00 a.m.

### Christmas Day

8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

All services will be signed for the deaf





**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church**  
6928 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, Oh, 44102

**Holiday Mass Schedule**

**Christmas Eve: Children's Mass..5:00 P.M.**

**Christmas Concert..11:30 P.M.**

**Solemn High Mass..12:00 A.M.**

**Christmas Day: 8:00 AM, 10:00 Italian, 11:30 AM**

Please join us in celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ

## Saint Ignatius Of Antioch Church

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## CHRISTMAS + 2014

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

5:00 PM Vigil Mass  
Candlelight Procession

11:30 PM Christmas Concert

David Dettloff, Music Director

12 AM Midnight Mass

Candlelight Procession & Parish Choir with String and Woodwind Ensemble and Handbell Choir

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

11:00 AM Mass



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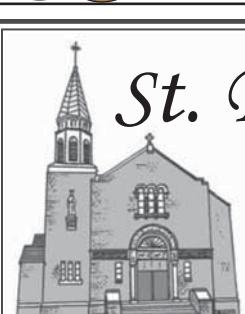
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Cleveland, Ohio 44109

phone: 216 661-1191

### Wednesday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Masses

4:30 p.m. (English), 10:00 p.m.

(Bilingual – English/Polish)

### Thursday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day Masses

9:00 a.m. (English), 11:00 a.m. (Polish)

### Wednesday, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve

4:30 p.m. (English)

### Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015, New Year's Day

9:00 a.m. (English), 11:00 a.m. (Polish)

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Wednesday, December 24 • 7:00PM

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## Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislative Equality (NOBLE) makes platform recommendations for next Ohio Budget

by Chuck Hoven

The dust had barely settled after the November election in the State of Ohio when Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE) gathered to start organizing to have an impact on the next biennial State of Ohio Budget.

At a Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting NOBLE members gathered to determine what they would like to see in the next State of Ohio Budget. Priorities included Health & Mental Health Care; Elderly and Disability Services; Childcare & Kinship care; Primary, Secondary

and Higher Education; Cash and Food Assistance; Housing and Public Transportation.

Those in attendance broke into groups for planning sessions and reunited in the early afternoon to report back. As the groups began to report back, NOBLE member Gloria Aron urged all to believe in their power to make change in the two-year state budget to be considered this coming legislative session. She reminded them of their role in the successful effort to expand Medicaid coverage to people with incomes up to 138% of the poverty level.

Aron reported back for a group working on tax policy. Aron explained that someone has to pay for all the services the state provides. The group called for a tax system where everyone pays their fair share. They called for a refundable Earned Income Tax Credit – where like the federal EITC, individuals would receive back the full amount of the Tax Credit – even if it was more than they paid in. The group called for a tax on the oil and gas resources being extracted from Ohio shale and asked that the money be used to pay for state programs, not to reduce other taxes. Other items mentioned included reviewing state tax loopholes, reestablishing the estate tax, preserving and restoring the income tax and increasing its progressive nature, and securing a homestead exemption for seniors for the first \$50,000 of their property's value.

NOBLE member Katie Boland presented budget goals for health care and mental health care. The group seeks to assure the reauthorization of Medicaid expansion at 138% of poverty and to maintain traditional Medicaid as it is. The group also called for the next two year state budget to restore

the full \$100 million for Alcohol, Other Drugs and Mental Health Services and fully fund recovery services including employment, peer services, crisis services, housing, detox medication, assisted treatment and health promotion.

The group asked for some policy changes on the state level as well, including the development of a system of notification requirements of local poison deaths to help local boards such as the Cuyahoga County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board to know what drugs are being abused. Another issue the group hopes to address in the new state budget is funding of better prenatal care to address Ohio's high infant mortality rate – one of the worst in the nation.

The presentation on funding services for the elderly and disabled called for investment in home and community based services, no more cuts to local offices of aging or senior centers, and maintaining or increasing funds in the Alzheimer's respite line item. The group called for the state of Ohio to develop certification for home health aides, which includes ethics training.

A couple of high school students offered to make the presentation for the education group. They suggested that students from all schools come together and share what is working and what is not working in their schools. They said programs that are working should be duplicated everywhere. They said the student council could act as a statewide advocacy voice for education. Other concerns they addressed included accountability for charter schools, and making college more accessible. NOBLE members discussed the obscene amount of dollars now being spent on testing. The consensus was there were too many standardized tests and the money now being diverted to testing companies should go to the schools.

The NOBLE budget platform also included restoration of the cuts made to the Local Government Fund, increasing funds to deal with foreclosure assistance, and maintaining the Housing Trust Fund at current levels. The group called for an increase in funds for public transit, noting that 9% of the state's population does not drive, yet only 1% of the funding goes to public transit.

NOBLE member Larry Bresler made the presentation for the group working on a platform for Kinship Care, Child Care and Cash Assistance. Bresler noted that children placed in Kinship Care with relatives in general fared better than children in the foster care system. Bresler said currently the state provides \$259 a month for a child placed in kinship care and an additional \$90 a month for each additional child up to four children. There is no additional money provided if there are more than four children served. Foster parents receive \$600 per child. Bresler said the committee proposed closing this gap to help families taking care of the children of relatives. The NOBLE committee's proposal also calls for ending the ceiling on the number of children subsidized with kinship care funds and to disregard adult income when calculating cost of living increases in the foster care system. The group also supported increasing the age to 21 for aging out of foster care (the current age is 18).

The committee's recommendations on Child Care included a call for returning eligibility for childcare assistance to families with income up to 185% of the federal poverty level.

The committee asked that the State of Ohio seek a federal waiver on work requirements for all counties so more people could receive cash assistance. They asked that cash assistance be provided to families for 5 years rather than the current 3 years. Requested cash assistance levels for families be increased and that regular cost of living increases be placed in the budget.

They asked funds to assist victims of domestic violence be restored. Requested that the state step up the spending of funds already allocated to the Ohio Work Incentive program to work with employers to help people obtain good paying jobs.

The committee also sought to resolve a problem created by the high client to worker ratio in local Ohio Offices of Job and Family Services by providing funding for more staffing. Bresler says in Cuyahoga County the ratio of clients to workers is 600 to 1. He said this workload need to be lower, because now clients are being sanctioned because of failure to meet with their caseworkers. Part of the reason for missing meetings is the inflexibility of scheduling due to high caseloads.

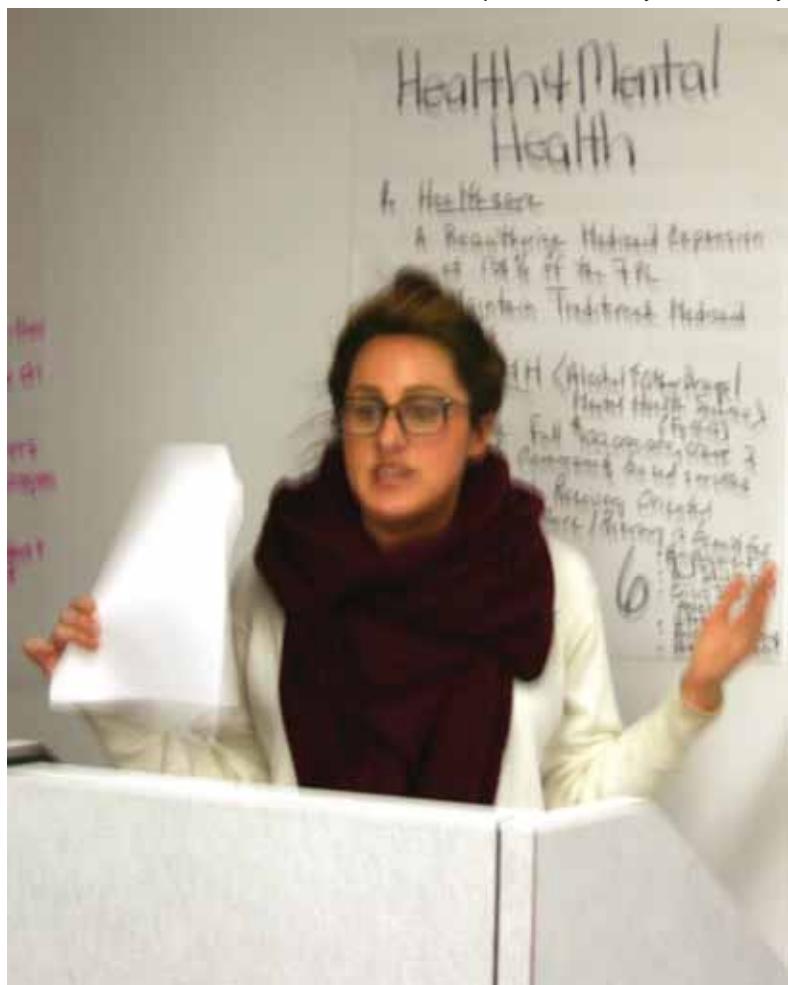


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, November 15, 2014; 2015 Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE) 2015 Platform Gathering, 3631 Perkins Avenue: Katie Boland, External Affairs Specialist for the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County and a NOBLE member, presents NOBLE's platform recommendations on Health Care and Mental Health.

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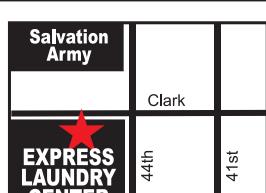
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