

PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN

Thursday, June, 25; Funeral March for Death of Critical Services due to State of Ohio Budget Cuts: Diana King, Chairperson of Advocates for Budget Legislative Equality speaks in front of the Frank J. Laushe State Office Building to those mourning the loss of the social safety net in Ohio. See related photos on pages 4 & 5.

FREE

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Plain Press

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR CLEVELAND'S WEST SIDE NEIGHBORHOODS

Seven candidates to contend in September primary election in newly redrawn Ward 14

by Chuck Hoven

Seven people will face off in the September 8th Primary Election, for the newly reconstituted Ward 14 Cleveland City Council seat. The top two candidates that emerge from the primary election will face each other in the November 10th General Election.

The candidates for Ward 14 include current Ward 14 Councilman Joe Santiago; Ward 15 Councilman Brian Cummins; and former Ward 14 Councilman Nelson Cintron, Jr. Rick Nagin, who served as a council aide to Nelson Cintron, Jr. has also entered the race. Rounding out the field of candidates running for the position, are: James M. D'Amico, Gary Horvath and Moises Torres.

This is the first City Council Primary election since the passage of

a referendum to reduce the size of Cleveland City Council. As a result of the referendum the number of wards will be reduced from 21 to 19. The boundaries of the wards have changed. In the realignment, Ward 15 was divided up between three Wards. The new Ward 14 now contains bulk of the Brooklyn Centre neighborhood that was in Ward 15.

Cummins, the councilperson for Ward 15, has decided to challenge Ward 14 Councilman Joe Santiago.

In a May 2009 article on the Plain Press website (www.plainpress.org), Council President Sweeney said the recent redrawing of Cleveland City Council Ward boundaries to reduce the number of Council Wards from 21 to 19 involved creating wards with roughly 25,000 people per city

council representative. He said estimated populations in the new wards ranged from 22,500 on the low end to 27,000 on the high end. In doing the redistricting he said City Council relied on the recommendations of a paid consulting firm.

In the same article Sweeney denied that the realignment of ward boundaries was used to eliminate wards of political foes, Cummins and Councilman Zack Reed. He said one factor in drawing new ward boundaries was keeping Ward 14 with roughly the same percentage of Hispanic voters. He said the current Ward 14 was roughly 44% Hispanic and the new Ward 14 would be roughly 43.2% Hispanic. He said demographics indicated

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Parent raises concern about Orchard School closing

by Chuck Hoven

A parent concerned about plans to close Orchard School for reconstruction brought her concerns before the Bond Accountability Commission at its July meeting.

When Cleveland voters passed a bond issue in 2001 to repair and rebuild their schools, they also created the Bond Accountability Commission (BAC) The BAC is a citizen's group charged with monitoring the expenditures of the Cleveland Municipal School District's (CMSD) school construction and repair program.

The CMSD's strategy for spending the repair and construction money initially involved a massive repair plan called Warm, Safe and Dry, which brought school buildings up to a level of repair considered

safe for students. In addition to Warm, Safe and Dry, the district held community meetings in the early years of this decade, to help establish a Master Plan. The plan determined the long-term needs of the district, called for some school closings and set up a plan for the rehabilitation and/or replacement of the remaining schools.

NEWS ANALYSIS

During the last week of this past school year, parents of students at Orchard School learned that the school would be closed to make way for its demolition and replacement with a new school. They also learned that their children would be assigned to attend a swing space school (temporary schools for displaced students.) The swing

school assigned to Orchard School is Halle School, which is 1 1/2 miles west of Orchard. While the CMSD's plan to rebuild Orchard School was in the Master Plan for a number of years -- until the last week of this school year, there were no recent discussions of the plan with parents of students currently attending the school.

A parent who brought her concerns about the closing of Orchard School to the attention of the Bond Accountability Commission was armed with signatures from many parents at Orchard School. The parent complained about the short notice given and poor communication about the closure. She also was concerned about the long distance

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PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN

Thursday, July 9, 2009; St. Colman Church Hall, 2027 W. 65th: Peace and Justice advocate Cindy Sheehan talks about the immorality of war. See related story online at www.plainpress.org.

Peace & justice activist Cindy Sheehan calls for peaceful revolution to stop unjust wars

by Joe Narkin

As part of a national tour to promote her online book, *Myth America: 10 Greatest Myths of the Robber Class and the Case for Revolution*, Cindy Sheehan told a crowd of 150 peace and justice activists at St.

Colman's Church on July 9th that a peaceful revolution, founded upon locally based economic structures, would be the most effective strategy in ending unjust wars and economic

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Eight organizations pull resources to open Westside Housing Center at Gordon Square

by Joe Narkin

Eight local organizations have pooled their talents and resources to establish the Westside Housing Center at the Gordon Square Arcade on Detroit Avenue in Ward 17. Before a crowd of 55 residents and supporters at a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 9th, Cuyahoga County Treasurer Jim Rokakis emphasized that, for far too many people throughout the Greater Cleveland area, "the American Dream (of homeownership) has become an American nightmare."

While the primary objective of the Westside Housing Center is to provide assistance to homeowners who are looking for alternatives to losing their houses due to bank foreclosure, the Westside Housing Center will also offer training and guidance on issues relating to rental tenancy, property management, home repair, financial literacy, and wealth creation. The Center will also house a computer lab for the use of residents. The primary target for marketing the Center is the West Side of Cleveland.

From 2000 through 2006, Ohio led the county in housing foreclosure

rates and now ranks 25th in the country, according to Rokakis. This drop in ranking does not represent an improvement in conditions, however, since Ohio (and Cleveland in particular) served as the epicenter of a growing national trend that is now spreading rapidly to the suburbs, according to Rokakis. In Cuyahoga County, for example, 65% of recent foreclosure filings are from the City and 35% are from the suburbs. "There is not much left in the City to foreclose," said Rokakis.

"Ward 17 represents a microcosm for the foreclosure crisis in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County," said Matt Lasko, Housing Director of the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization. The Detroit Shoreway neighborhood leads the West Side of Cleveland in foreclosure rates, according to Lasko. Since 2006, 14% of the homes in the neighborhood have entered foreclosure, with a 10% vacancy rate and 6% of housing stock demolished, he said.

Although Detroit Shoreway

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PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN

Thursday, July 9, 2009; Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, West Side Housing Center at Gordon Square Arcade, 6500 Detroit Ave: (L-R): Paula Miller, Director of Operations, NHS of Greater Cleveland; Ester Holtwick, Director of Financial Education, WECO Fund, Inc.; Carrie Carpenter, Vice President, Director of Public Affairs, Charter One; Matt Zone, Ward 17 Councilman, Cleveland City Council; Elizabeth Hilton, Executive Director, Cleveland Saves; James Rokakis, Treasurer, Cuyahoga County; Charles Thigpen, Senior Vice President for Community Development Services, Third Federal Savings & Loan; and Matt Lasko, Director of Housing, Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization.



PHOTO BY ROBIN PLEASE

Friday, July 10, 2009; SmART in the City Program, West Side Community House (WSCH), 9300 Lorain Avenue: Youths practice high jumping. Youth from the SmART in the City Program at WSCH will showcase their accomplishments to the community at an August 6th celebration.



ARTS

ARTS IN AUGUST, free events for all at Tremont's Lincoln Park, W.14th between Starkweather and Kenilworth, include: Sat, Aug. 1, 7 p.m. : Cleveland Public Theatre STEP performance; Fri, Sat, Aug.7-8, 8:30 p.m.: Morrison Dance and Antaeus Dance; Fri, Sat, Aug.14-15, 8:30 p.m.: GroundWorks Dance Theatre; Fri, Sat, Aug. 28-29, 8:30 p.m.: Verb Ballets For information and rain dates, contact TWDC at 216-575-0920 or www.tremontwestdevelopment.com.

PHOTO CONTEST: CSU'S Urban Affairs Forum "Feeding Cleveland" photo contest is open to all Northeast Ohio photographers. Images should convey urban agriculture's role in feeding Cleveland in difficult and challenging economic times and its role in reuse of vacant and abandoned land in Cleveland. Deadline for submissions in Fri., Aug. 21. For information visit <http://www.urban>.

csuohio.edu/forum/events.

CREATIVE WORKFORCE FELLOWSHIP application process will be topic of info workshop on Sat., Aug. 8 from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 2592 West 14th Street. The deadline to apply is Friday, September 25, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. EST. Up to 20 fellowships for individual dance, literary, music, theatre and interdisciplinary artists will include \$20,000 financial award. Detailed guidelines and application information are at <http://www.cpacbiz.org/business/CWF.shtml>

EVENTS

FRIEND-RAISER at Malachi House will be held on Thursday, August 20, from 5-7 p.m., 3101 Clinton Avenue. Enjoy refreshments and learn more about Malachi House. For information or to rsvp, contact MaryKay@malachihouse.org.

STOCKYARD NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM Wed., August 5, at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post 2850, 3296 West 61st Street, includes a presentation on the Youth Resource Center, which provides families and youth with information, education, and support during non-traditional hours to prevent unnecessary system involvement. For information call Stockyards at 216-961-7687, ext.202.

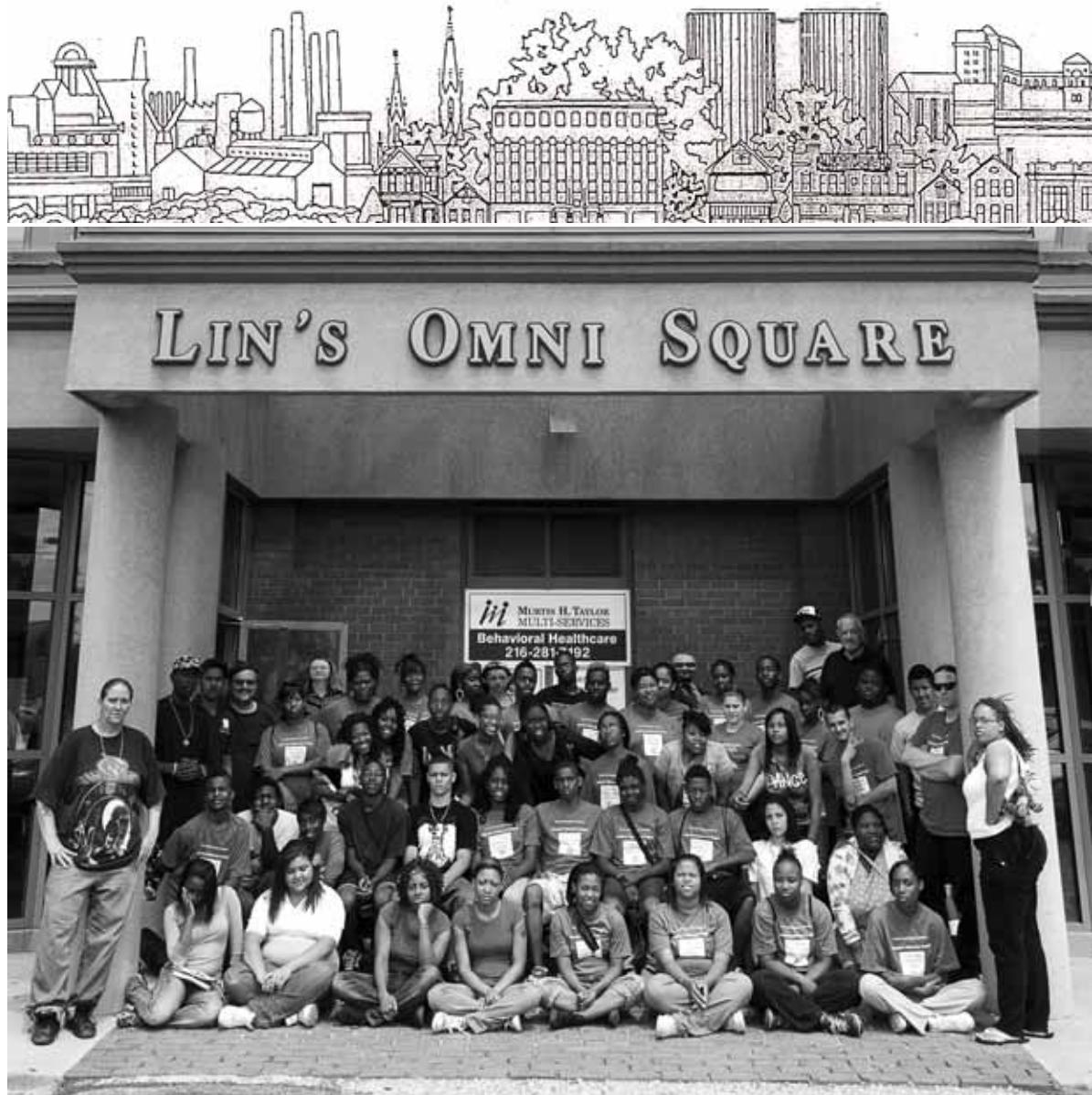
LEGAL ADVICE AND REFERRAL CLINIC will be held at the West Side Catholic Center, 3135 Lorain Avenue, on Saturday, August 8, from 9:45 a.m. to noon. Thursday, July 16, 5-7 pm. Volunteer attorneys will provide FREE legal advice and possible referrals for low-income individuals and their families concerning civil legal issues like divorce, disputes with landlords, predatory lending, public benefits, and bankruptcy. For info, call Legal Aid at 216-687-1900 or visit <http://www.lasclv.org>.

PORT AUTHORITY MEETING on Thursday, August 13th at 5:30 p.m. at St. Ignatius High School, 1911 W. 30th. Discussion of plans to move Port Authority Facilities to E. 55th site to make way for redevelopment of a 100-acre site at the current port facility near Browns' Stadium.

FOOD PRESERVATION WORKSHOPS: Learn how to safely preserve a summer harvest at Ohio State Extension canning and freezing workshop on Wed, Aug.12, 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Community Church, 4427 Franklin Blvd. For reservations, call 216-429-8217 or email warrix.1@osu.edu.

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Clark Metro Newsletter



July 2009, Lin Omni Center, 3167 Fulton: Teen participants in the Youth Opportunities Unlimited Summer Program assembled in front of the Lin Omni Center. The teens worked on clean-up projects in the Clark Metro neighborhood.

Teen Club Organization to host Clark Metro Development Corporation Youth Recognition Awards Show at San Lorenzo Hall

Teen Club Organization (T.C.O.) has partnered with Clark Metro Development Corporation (C.M.D.C.) and Club San Lorenzo to hold an awards show for the outstanding youth that participated in the Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.) 2009 Summer Job Program in Cleveland's Ward 14 community. A total of 30 awards will be presented in six categories: Leadership, Teamwork, Punctuality, Extra Effort, Work Ethics, and Civic Good Will Attitude. Along with the awards presentations there will

be live entertainment provided throughout the show. The live entertainment will be showcasing the local youth talent. Those attending the event will also receive an authentic Spanish meal.

Tickets are \$10 for advance purchase or \$12 at the door. The CMDC Youth Recognition Awards Show will be held at San Lorenzo Hall, 3121 W. 33rd Street on Sunday, August 16th from 3-6 p.m.

The public is invited to come and support this community event recognizing and supporting our youth. The event

is sponsored by Carmen Key Works, Cleveland Convenient Store, The Old San Juan Jeweler, Fulton Beverage, Castro Hardware, Henry's Marathon, Fish House and Marcello's New Hair Design.

For more information or to order advance tickets call Clark Metro Development Corporation at 216-624-3811 or visit our office on the third floor of the Lin Omni Center at 3167 Fulton Road.

Teen Club Organization presents Clark Metro Development Corporation Youth Recognition Awards

2009

at

San Lorenzo Hall
3121 W. 33rd Street

Sunday August 16th, 2009

3:00 – 6:00 P.M.

Tickets:

\$10 in Advance

\$12 at the door

For advance tickets call 216-624-3811 or visit Clark Metro Development Corporation on the 3rd Floor of the Lin Omni Center at 3167 Fulton Road.

PROGRAM

Five awards will be presented in each of 6 categories:

1. Leadership
2. Team Work
3. Punctuality
4. Work Ethics
5. Extra effort
6. Civic good will attitude

Entertainment by local teens and a Latin band

Authentic Spanish meal

EVENT SCHEDULE

3:00 PM Doors Open

3:30 PM Teen Club Organization Opens show

Opening Prayer

3:40 PM Master of Ceremony Starts Show

3:45-4:25 PM Teen performances and award presentations

4:25-4:45 PM. Intermission

4:45-5:20 PM Teen performances and award presentations

5:20 PM Master of Ceremony raps up show, 3 speakers

5:30 PM Latin Band

6:00 Show ends

A Community Event Recognizing and Showcasing Our Youth

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Tremont resident sees need to devote resources to recreation

by Jerleen Justus

Claude Lawrence Cornett, Jr., believed he had found his niche when he chose his West 6th Street dwelling in the Tremont area a few years ago. Like so many others, he had read and heard of all the culture Tremont had to offer but what attracted him most were the social graces so widely publicized and glorified. So, with visions of him sitting on the porch and sharing an early morning cup of coffee with a neighbor, Larry packed up his wagon and headed west for Cleveland's old South side.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

More recreation facilities & services needed for Tremont area youths

To The Editor

Between Tremont Point and other residential construction projects, hundreds of families are expected to move into the Tremont neighborhood. However, as far as I know, adequate facilities and services have not been planned or immediately adjacent to the new developments to meet recreational, social and other needs of the new residents and their neighbors. The prospect of hundreds of bored children, teens, and young adults adding to those already hanging out or playing sports on West 6th and other streets and in available vacant lots is worrisome.

The developers pointing to Lincoln Park, Cleveland Public Theater and Merrick House or places where teens, etc., can find constructive ways to spend their time does not adequately address these concerns. People need places to gather and things to do where they live and facilitate, and programs several blocks away, while helpful, will not

NEWS ANALYSIS

The new Tremont resident introduced himself to people in the neighborhood, and made friends with young and old, white and black and with short and long term residents alike. Cornett became not only one of the crowd, but also a respected member of the community.

Right away, he took notice of events in the neighborhood and looked for where he could use his talents and how he could enrich his new community by making it a better place to live.

Recently, Cornett attended a Hope VI Development meeting on

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adequately meet these needs. Furthermore, as far as I know, specific pertinent budgets and plans by these institutions to help address the population increase and associated recreational needs in our neighborhood have not been presented to the community.

Currently, as far as I know there are no specific and approved plans for new free or affordable places for tweens, teens and young adults to hang out, practice basketball, soccer, or other sports within or immediately adjacent to the new developments - except for three very small toddler play areas that are too small and unsuitable for this purpose.

However, general options are under consideration for a trailhead area for the Ohio Canal Corridor, Tow-Path Project that be built adjacent or close to the new development. Perhaps, this might present an opportunity to help remedy the situation. If we can put



PHOTO BY ROBIN PEASE

Friday, July 10, 2009; SmART in the City Program, West Side Community House (WSCH), 9300 Lorain Avenue: A camper from the SmART in the City Program poses with their "Rotinonhsyonni" (meaning "Confederacy" in the Mohawk Native American Indian language) -- the rules for the SmART in the City program. Campers created their own rules and signed this constitution.

together a coalition or interested individuals and organizations, perhaps we may be able to help arrange for the plans, funding and organization needed to provide appropriate indoor and outdoor recreational facilities and associated services in this trailhead area.

Portions of the currently unused Hope VI property should also be set aside for the recreational purposes, at least until more permanent arrangements are made.

What got me concerned about the situation was a June 13, 2006 meeting on the Hope VI Project. At that meeting, plans were presented for the development that included no

areas for residents to hang out on or immediately adjacent to Hope VI, except for the three small, toddlers, play areas. Furthermore, those speaking for the project said that they would police the area to make sure people did not hang out in the parking lots, tree lawns, steps, etc.

I chose my neighborhood on West 6th in this Tremont area in

part because families do hang out on their porches and nearby areas and I believe that such socializations generally help make a neighborhood safe and build a community. Driving our new neighbors into nearby areas without adequate parks and recreational facilities is asking for trouble.

Claude Lawrence Cornett, Jr.
6th Street, Tremont

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Thursday, June 25, 2009, Funeral Service for Death of Critical Services due to State of Ohio Budget Cuts, Downtown Cleveland: Tony Minor, Advocacy Director for Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, addresses the crowd saying "Today we come together to mourn the loss of a real future for children, adults, and families in Ohio."

HOUSING CENTER

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neighborhood leads the West Side

of Cleveland in foreclosure rates, the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Corporation has led the City in finding innovative solutions

to the crisis, said Rokakis. Ward 17 Councilman Matt Zone agrees. "This organization (Detroit Shoreway CDC) is a trailblazer" in supporting urban living, said Zone, noting that the CDC laid the groundwork for Eco Village, a sustainable living housing project, and for helping maintain economic diversity in the community.

"If we are going to deal with this foreclosure crisis, it is going to start with one person, one family, and one neighborhood at a time," said Zone. From his experience, over several years, with the number of calls seeking housing assistance, Zone recognizes the difficulty that people in crisis can experience in navigating referrals to multiple organizations for help.

"It is good to know that you have a one-stop center for individuals who are living in a difficult moment; the Center is a wonderful

SAFEighteen meeting highlights neighborhood safety in Ward 18

by Frank Barnett

"Safety is the number one measuring stick of a neighborhood," said Councilman Jay Westbrook at his ward's SAFEighteen community meeting on July 15 at West Boulevard Christian Church. "It's like the benefits of a garden. If we don't tend to it, we get weeds."

Ward 18, Councilman Westbrook's ward, is the only one in Cleveland with two safety directors: Michael McDonald oversees the area south of Lorain Avenue and Birgit Hilliard has covered north of Lorain for the past 6 years. Recent reports have shown crime to be down in the area.

SAFEighteen stays focused on the roots of problems before they get out of hand. Holding regular community meetings, they keep an eye on youth in the neighborhood,

helping police enforce curfews and encouraging activity in schools and churches. Gang activity and graffiti are not tolerated; and housing codes are enforced. As a SAFEighteen brochure says, "the condition of housing is closely related to the safety of a community."

For most of the meeting, there was time for people to mingle and talk with police and government officials about specific concerns they might have -- more convenient than going to the official's offices to register complaints. Representatives from the Juvenile and the County Prosecutor offices, Department of Health and Department of Building and Housing, Community Service and the Police Department were on hand to listen to resident's concerns.

YOUTH RECREATION

continued from page 3

June 13, 2006 where plans for the development were presented. One concern he had regarding the plan was that it did not include areas for residents to hang out and would be policed to ensure people did not hang out in the parking lot or tree lawns.

Another of Cornett's concerns was that money seemed to be distributed to the more favored areas in Tremont where other areas were deprived. It seemed to him that community planning did not include the children of the community as a whole. Cornett saw youngsters, without convenient playgrounds or recreational activities, hanging out

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"It was almost like living a living death; at one point, I said that I was just going to walk away," rather than go through what he viewed as "a demeaning process," he said.

"When you are in a demoralized situation, when you are depressed, you will take every excuse to avoid taking action out of a fear of failure," said Figueroa. When he finally reached out, the Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP) Foreclosure Prevention Program helped Figueroa save his home. With this help, "the feeling that I was a failure went away," he said.

"Foreclosure counseling is the most important thing that we can do; sitting across the table from someone," said Rokakis, noting that 800 numbers from reputable agencies were not always effective due to an impersonalized approach and many 800 operators were just scams to exploit people in crisis.

"This is the type of collaboration where you have to leave your egos at the door," said Charles Thigpen, Vice President of Community Development with Fifth Third Bank, one of several corporate funders of the Westside Housing Center. "This Center provides the constituency with one of the most, if not the most, comprehensive services in the City, said Thigpen, adding that, "based upon my travels, it is, perhaps, one of the best in the nation."

The eight organizational partners in the establishment of the Westside Housing Center are Cleveland Action to Support Housing, Cleveland Saves, Cleveland Tenants Organization, Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland, Detroit Shoreway CDC, Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People, Neighborhood Progress, Inc., and WECO Fund, Inc.

"We do not have every part that we need to and every class that we need to, but we will evaluate things on a daily basis to meet the needs of West Side residents," said Lasko.

The Westside Housing Center is located in a storefront at the Gordon Square Arcade at 6500 Detroit Avenue. Hours are 11:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. The Center can be reached through the switchboard of Detroit Shoreway CDC at (216) 961-2921. Services are offered free of charge.

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Wait List Opening

Severance Towers, a property managed by Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, is accepting applications for housing from individuals age 62 years and older or disabled/handicapped for Severance Tower, located at 25 Severance Circle Drive, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118. This is an eight-story building with one bedroom apartments.

Each applicant must meet the program eligibility criteria to qualify for federal housing assistance and the specific project eligibility criteria for Severance Tower.

Effective Monday, August 3, 2009, applications will be accepted at Severance Tower, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

The wait list will close on Monday, August 31, 2009 in anticipation of sufficient applications to limit the waiting period to less than one year.



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Sal's Menu Restaurant

The American Greasy Spoon Diner Lives!

by Jason Beudert

Somewhere along the path of "2 for 2 bucks" egg sandwiches and breakfast burritos, the American consumer has lost touch with the true American greasy spoon diner. The type of establishment that the owner is behind the counter either "working the grill" or cashing out your bill and everyone knows his or her name. The type of establishment that you can sit at the counter, read the paper, talk to friends and have a hot cup of coffee. The type of establishment where you watch your food being prepared right in front of you and, your meal is delivered piping hot. The same type of establishment our parents took us to after church or a special event.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Sal's Menu Restaurant located at 3850 Pearl Road in Cleveland is a true American greasy spoon diner that is exactly one of these nostalgic establishments. As soon as you enter Sal's you feel like you are thrown back to days gone by. On this Sunday morning, the counter is filled with Churchgoers and neighborhood regulars. The counter takes up half the dining area with a few booths making up the rest.

Not only is Sal the owner, but he is also the only cook! Just look above the griddle where a small knick-knack hangs saying "Welcome to Sal's Kitchen".

What is truly amazing is not only the volume of food he produces from a three-foot griddle, but the quality, temperature and production time is unmatched. These big chain restaurants with ten or more cooks in their kitchens can learn a few things from Sal.

As I sat down a smiling server offered me some coffee and I gladly accepted. The coffee flavor was bold, bountiful, and extremely hot. The server also offered us a paper, which I thought was a nice touch. Sal's menu offers a little something for everyone. Sal's features a true greasy spoon breakfast/lunch menu – from breakfast specials to sandwiches to pork chops. I was told to try one of Sal's famous omelets, and I did. I ordered the Gyro (pronounced yee-row) Omelet.

Sal has a very unique technique when it comes to his omelets. Unlike the traditional way that the ingredients are put on top of the griddle before the omelet is folded and served, Sal mixes the gyro meat right into the scrambled egg. Then he pours the eggs with the gyro meat directly onto the griddle.

Another trick that Sal does is his omelets are served "open-faced" and not folded. He melts some the

cheese and fires it off the griddle and onto my plate.

The hash browns are clearly home made. Sal uses the hot surface of the griddle to cook them to a crispy texture. He adds a small amount of butter and grilled onions.

When my dish was served, the smoke was billowing off the plate. The omelet was perfectly cooked on the outside, just slightly crispy. The gyro meat had a delicious grilled taste. The hash browns were delightful with fresh grilled onions scattered throughout. My raisin toast was a little too toasted for my liking but was served hot.

Sal is truly one in a million. His staff around him runs like a finely tuned engine. Each person responsible for a certain aspect of our experience and most importantly they do it with a smile! Our bill was

under twelve dollars for breakfast for two with coffees and tip. Sal also has breakfast specials starting around three dollars for a complete meal. In these trying economic times, Sal's Menu Restaurant keeps it basic, consistent and recession proof.

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ORCHARD SCHOOL

continued from page one

the children would have to walk to the swing school while waiting for their new school. The parent wondered why Orchard School, which had been recently repaired under the CMSD's Warm Safe and Dry Repair plan, needed to be demolished.

The concerns raised by this parent offer several major issues that the Bond Accountability Commission and the Board of Education should consider as they undergo a major review of the Master Plan. recent reports by the Bond Accountability Commission call for a review and updating of the plan in light of huge losses in student population coupled with failure by the district to meet employment targets for Cleveland residents, minorities and women.

While revising its Master Plan, the district should consider the time that has lapsed since the original meetings on what to do with each school. Not everyone is aware of the time line for school closures, demolition and new construction. Current parents and neighborhood stakeholders may have different views than those who attended the original meetings. Parents and children having experienced schools repaired under the Warm Safe and Dry Program may no longer be as supportive of demolishing their schools.

Second, having a meeting on the last week of school to tell parents their school is being demolished and their child will have to attend another school in the fall is inconsiderate. Time to discuss this issue should

have been allocated earlier in the school year when such meetings are more feasible and follow-up meetings and discussions can be held.

Third, consideration of the distances to swing schools should be incorporated into the planning process. With both Orchard School (4200 Bailey) and Paul Dunbar School (2200 W. 28th) scheduled to close and be demolished this year, the school system has created a situation where only one of the schools will be able to move to the neighborhood swing space at Kentucky School (W. 38th and Woodbine). This leaves Halle School (7901 Halle Ave) as the nearest swing space, more than a mile and a half west of Orchard School. Because it is less than two miles, parents have been told the district will not supply transportation and many young children, from this Pre-K to grade 8 school, will be forced to walk a greater distance to school through unfamiliar territory.

The decision to use Halle as swing space for Orchard School also creates a problem for children attending Almira School (W. 98th and Almira), which is also slated for demolition this year. Those children have been assigned to go west to Nathaniel Hawthorne (W. 130th South of Lorain) rather than the shorter distance east to Halle School.

The district should consider delaying the closure of Orchard School until the new Paul Dunbar School is completed. Such a decision would lighten the burden on parents and children at both Orchard School and Almira School. Making this revision in the plan would allow the children from Almira School to go to Halle School this year and allow

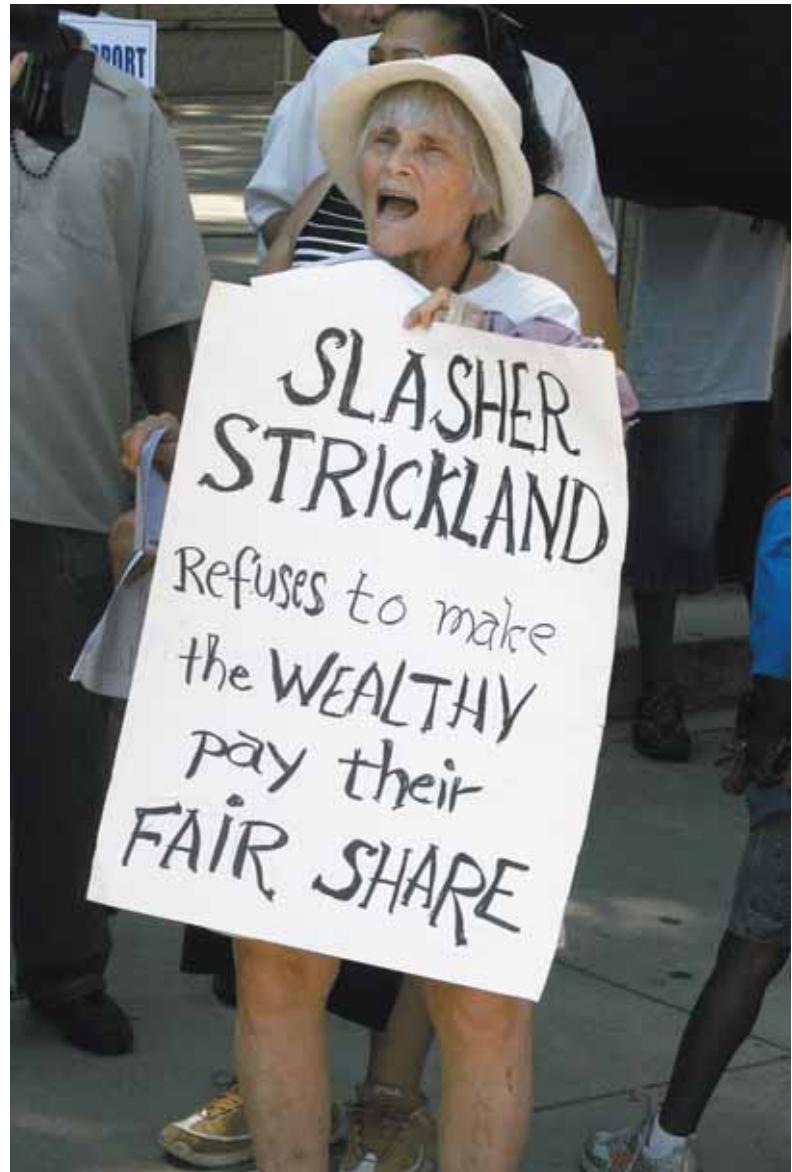


PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN

Thursday, June 25, 2009; Funeral March for Death of Critical Services due to State of Ohio Budget Cuts, Downtown Cleveland: Peace and Justice Advocate Valerie Robinson protests the budget cuts made by Ohio Governor Ted Strickland.

the Orchard School children to stay put until Kentucky School is again available.

Editor's note: The next meeting of the Board of Education is Tuesday, August 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the Board of Education, 1380 E. 6th Street. To contact Cleveland Municipal School District Chief Executive Officer Eugene T. W. Sanders call 216-574-

8000 or visit the school district's website to access a comment form at www.cleveland.k12.oh.us.



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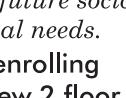
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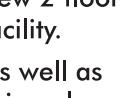
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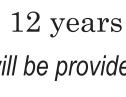


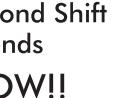




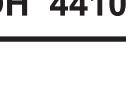














CINDY SHEEHAN

continued from page one

exploitation in the United States and abroad.

"There is a direct correlation between poverty and military wars of empire," said Sheehan. "There is a war here too and people are beginning to realize that the empire is crushing us too," she said in reference to the current economic recession and the disproportionate share of economic hardship being experienced by low income and middle class individuals and families.

Cindy Sheehan first came to national attention in 2005 following the death of her son, Casey, in Iraq when she challenged President George W. Bush to speak directly to her regarding the rationale for the War in Iraq. Upon his refusal, Sheehan established a protest camp along a road leading to President Bush's vacation ranch at Crawford, Texas for the duration of his five-week vacation. Since breaking camp at Crawford, Sheehan has led a

series of peace protests across the United States, including a march through the neighborhood surrounding Bush's new Dallas home.

Speaking as if to former President Bush, Sheehan said, "You have left office, but your policies linger; you do not have the right to live in luxury," adding, "I am going to spend the rest of my life working to hold you accountable."

Running as an independent candidate, Sheehan opposed House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for the 8th District (San Francisco area) seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, outpolling a Republican candidate to come in second. She withdrew from the Democratic Party in 2007 due to the party record in voting record for funding of the Iraq War.

In introductory remarks, Father Bob Begin of St. Colman's said, "some of the parishioners were not happy" that the church was hosting the book tour event, but "what Cindy is saying is what the bishops are saying and what the Pope is saying; that war is immoral, particularly the war in Iraq."

"I am not here to make anybody mad; I am here to state the facts," said Sheehan. "If the facts make you mad, they should," she said.

"Before Casey died, I knew that there was profiteering in war; now I know that

profiteering is the reason for war," said Sheehan. "One of the myths of America is, if we kill somebody, they deserved to be killed; they are never innocent," she said. And empire-building war in the interest of private profit is not a new phenomenon in the United States, according to Sheehan.

Citing the Vietnam War, drone bombing in Pakistan, and current U.S. interference in Iran and Honduras, Sheehan said, "They (wars of empire) are always happening and have been happening since World War II. "And why," she asked, "don't we say that our misadventure in Afghanistan, is just as bad as our war in Iraq?"

While she deems Bush a war criminal for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (and holds him culpable for torture and other violations of human rights), Sheehan believes that there is a systemic problem in the United States and that both the Republican and Democratic Party are equally committed to maintaining power structures that support empire, imperialism, and economic inequality. "It is not the man; it is the system and it is a systemic problem," said Sheehan.

Sheehan strongly disagrees with the actions of President Barack Obama in escalating the war in Afghanistan and violating the territorial integrity of Pakistan through drone bombing raids

that kill civilians, but believes that the American people were given fair warning of the President's intent in this regard. "In Afghanistan, Obama is only fulfilling one of his campaign promises," said Sheehan, who did not support Obama in the presidential election.

"In Afghanistan, it is now, more than ever, a Democratic Party war," said Sheehan. "Obama is better than Bush, but I've got a corn on my foot that is better than Bush," she said, adding that, "I am waiting for them (the Democratic Party) to say that Osama bin Laden is in North Korea."

There is really only one party in the United States, according to Sheehan, since both parties have proven to be consistently supportive of wars of empire and an inequitable distribution of economic resources in the U.S. and throughout the world.

"The Democrats and the Republicans represent the left wing and the right wing of the war party and the robber class party," said Sheehan. "There is really no division in America (or in the world) except the division of class – between the robber class and the robbed class – with the robber class willing to collaborate to get all the power and money, and the robber class fomenting artificial divisions within the robbed class" to keep them divided, she said "This has been happening since

the founding of this country," she added.

In "Myth America," Sheehan writes, "It's time to break the sick relationship that we have with the robber class and do something about it," adding, "They can only rob us, if we allow them to." Through local economies and local initiatives, the robbed class can take back their power through a peaceful revolution and deprive the robber class of the resources that they need to maintain a corrupt power structure, according to Sheehan.

In addition to "Myth America," which is available as a PDF print document online, Cindy Sheehan has three books in print: "Peace Mom: A Mother's Journey Through Heartache to Activism," "Dear President Bush," and, "Not One More Mother's Child." More information about these publications, her San Francisco-based weekly radio show, and her weblog may be obtained at www.CindySheehanSoapbox.com.

For more information regarding local peace and justice groups and activities, contact Cleveland Peace Action at (216) 231-4246 (or www.peaceactioncleveland.org) or the Northeast Ohio Anti-War Coalition at (216) 736-4716 (or www.noacinfo.org).

PRIMARY ELECTION

continued from page one

that the Hispanic population was migrating southward to the Brooklyn

Center neighborhood. Sweeney said with the Old Brooklyn neighborhood landlocked on two sides, Councilman Anthony Brancatelli's Ward came westward because of lost population on the East Side. He said Councilman Joe Cimperman's

ward also moved westward and south to take a portion of what was Ward 15.

According to data provided on the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website (boe.cuyahoga county.us), the new Ward 14 has moved south with the new northern boundary of the ward now stretching from I-90 and Kenilworth to Wiley to Train Avenue. The northern edge of the ward then moves westward along Train Avenue to W. 41st before jag-

ging south and west along the center line of W. 41 to Clark Avenue to W. 46 to Oakley, then Kouba, then to Denison, then Denison to W. 56th to the center line of the entrance to I-71 and then finally to the center line of the main line, Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad tracks. From there the southern boundary of the ward heads east along the tracks until it reaches Pearl Road. The Eastern boundary of the ward heads north along the centerline of Pearl Road

to I-71 where it proceeds north to the center line of I-90 and from there back to I-90 and Kenilworth.

There is still time to register to vote in the primary election. Ward 14 residents who are not registered to vote, or who have moved since the last election can register at the Board of elections or pick up a mail in registration form at their local library. The deadline to register to vote in time for the primary election is August 10th at 9 p.m.

While a number of the wards on the East Side of Cleveland will have primary races, the new Ward 18 is the only other ward on the West Side other than Ward 14 that will have a City Council primary race. Council President Martin J. Sweeney will face two opponents Nobert Dennerl and Maryanne Petranek. There are two or fewer candidates in the remainder of the West Side Cleveland City Council races, so they will only appear on the general election ballot in November.

The City of Cleveland Mayoral Election will have five candidates on the September 8th Primary Ballot. Contending with Mayor Frank Jackson for the top two slots are: Kimberly F. Brown, Laverne Jones Gore, Robert M. Kilo and Bill Patmon.

Cleveland Citizen Echoes Online

Ever realize that every time a person is appointed to Cleveland City Council, democracy gets the boot? Ever realize that when 20 Council members vote on an appointed candidate, they treat democracy as a "sometime thing?" Meaning democracy is only important, when it doesn't get in the way of political quests, government interests, which overrides the public's rightful objections. Twenty Council members and one appointed candidate know their actions in voting and accepting has little to do with democracy. And now with the restructuring of wards, the appointed voted in by Council members, outnumber candidates voted in by the public. The vote has become a victory on the side of government.

There are currently twelve wards with appointed Councilpersons. Appointed members assures the power players (aristo-clouts), who dangle the strings of politicians, will not get tangled up in common folk issues, because the appointed generally follow establishment

procedures. But when newly elected members are voted in by the public, they will be watched, and if they stray too far from acceptable dispositions, as in getting too close to "those" average citizens, the welcome feelings will soon turn cold in the corridors of City Hall. And when that happens, the elected either start thinking about toeing the mark, or getting them stepped on. Either reform or don't expect to be invited to breakfast clicks. There have only been just a few members who gave up their Council seats after the first term. Most succumb to the way things are and hay why gravel, where else can a person make \$74,000 a year, and set their own work hours, plus getting perks of all kinds on the side? Politicians who were originally appointed, and are able to put a tight lid on the ethics angle (voters, take my guiding hand and be silent), will be praised and awarded from within the ranks of the power structure. And in Cleveland, the power is,,,

Continued on the website

<http://www.clevelandcitizenechoesonline.com/echoes.htm>

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COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

FILM

PLAYHOUSE SQUARE SUMMER MOVIES are shown Thursdays through Sundays during August at the Palace Theatre downtown, E. 16th and Euclid at Playhouse Square. Opening night film is free: Mel Brooks' *Young Frankenstein*

will be shown Thursday, August 6 at 7:30 pm. Organ concert on Palace Theatre's restored 1928 Kimball theater organ at 6:30 p.m. For information call 216-241-6000 or visit www.playhousesquare.org/cinema.

WESTSHORE FILM SERIES presents *Addicted to Plastic*, on Saturday, a feature-length documentary about solutions to plastic pollution, August 8 at 7 p.m. at the West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Rd., Rocky River. For information, call 440-333-2255, or visit <http://westshorefilm-series.wetpaint.com>.

SUMMER 2009 AT HERMAN PARK, W. 59th and Herman, one block north of Detroit Avenue: Arts and Crafts, Friday August 7th from 7-9 p.m., followed by outdoor screening of *Kung Fu Panda* at 9 p.m. (rain date August 14th). For information call ParkWorks at 696-2122 x 117 or visit www.ParkWorks.org.

ASPHALT CINEMA on Friday, August 21, at Impett Park, 3207 W. 153rd Street (north of Giant Eagle at Warren village Shopping Center), will present a live music concert and children's activities from 6:30-8:30 pm, followed by the film *Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa* at dusk. For information, call Kamm's Corners Dev. Corp., 216-252-6559.

HEALTH

FREE EYE EXAMS for children and adults without health insurance are being offered by Optum Health Inc. in partnership with Prevent Blindness America.

For information about eye health or access to a local vision screening, call (800) 331-2020 or visit prevent-blindness.org.

OTHER

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS VIDEO CONTEST: Create a short Public Safety Announcement promoting domestic violence awareness and prevention. Contest runs through Sept. 1. Contest rules and procedures posted on www.domesticviolencecenter.org. Videos will be posted on YouTube. The winning video creator will receive \$500, a link on the DVC website, and a public viewing of winning video during the month of October.

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FLEA MARKETS/THRIFTS

ST. PAUL'S THRIFT SHOP: Dollar Bag Sale, August 8th, 10 a.m.- Noon. Back to School Sale, August 15th, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. St. Paul's Community Church at W. 45th and Franklin Blvd.

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PROGRAM assists low and moderate income homeowners and tenants paint their homes with up to \$400 of free exterior house paint and materials. Applications are made at your local community development organization before Aug. 28, and must be approved before painting begins. For information, call the Division of Neighborhood Development 216-664-2045.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS next grant deadline will utilize a new application. Grantseeker orientation sessions will be held during August:

- Mon., Aug. 3, 6-7:30 p.m., West Park Branch Library, 3805 W. 157th at Lorain
- Thur., Aug. 6, 6-7:30 p.m., Eastman Branch Library, 11602 Lorain.

For information, call 216-393-4642 or visit www.neighborhoodgrants.org. Application deadline is Aug. 14 at 5 p.m.

CLEVELAND METROPARKS BOOK DISCUSSION, Sun., Aug. 2 at 2 p.m.:

- "A Mercy", by Toni Morrison, at Garfield Park Nature Ctr. (call 216-341-3152)
- "In Defense of Food", by Michael Pollan, Rocky River Nature Ctr. (call 440-734-6660).

SENIORS

FREE MATINEE AT PALACE THEATRE for seniors 55+ will include free lunch and screening of the 1982 comedy *Tootsie*, starring Dustin Hoffman and Jessica Lange, on Friday, Aug. 21 at 1 p.m. at the Palace Theatre, 1615 Euclid Avenue downtown. Order free tickets by Friday, Aug. 14 by calling (216) 420-6848 or (216) 443-8158. Tickets will be mailed.

WALK A HOUND LOSE A POUND meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Fairview Park, W. 38th and Franklin, for neighborhood walk. Free prizes and info each week; all are welcome, with or without a dog. For information, call ParkWorks at 216-696-2122, ext. 117 or visit www.ParkWorks.org.

TREMONT WALKING CLUB meets Mondays at 7 p.m. at the gazebo in Lincoln Park for neighborhood walk. Call Kristen at TWDC, 216-575-0920.

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Wednesday, July 8, 2009; under the Starkweather I-90 overpass, Tremont neighborhood: Youths from the Merrick House Youth Opportunities Unlimited summer program touch up the flags of different nations and paint over graffiti on the pillars.

PHOTO BY HENRY SENYAK

all children 3-12 years old will be held August 3 through 7 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Christ Parable Detectives (CPD) will discover the mystery of parables through lessons, crafts, music, computers, supper, and much more. For registration and information, call 216-781-8232 or visit www.FranklinCircleChurch.org.

FAIRVIEW PARK summer events at the playground, W. 38th and Franklin, include an Animation Workshop on Thur., Aug. 6, 1-3 p.m.; and an Ice Cream Social on Thur., Aug. 13, 7-9 p.m. For information, call ParkWorks at 216-696-2122, ext. 117 or visit www.ParkWorks.org.

YOUTH RECREATION

continued from page 4

in vacant lots aimlessly wondering around.

So, Cornett began to draft a proposal that he planned to present to organizations, such as the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority; the City of Cleveland; block clubs and others. Cornett stated, "While I would like to bring the Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC) into this effort, I am concerned about their having a potential financial conflict of interest

from free labor kickbacks from real estate and other interests responsible for TWDC not representing the interest of Tremont residents."

A number of parents and residents in the immediate area believe that Cornett should receive praise for his long hours and hard work in trying to provide recreational facilities for the children, teens and young adults. As one mother stated, "these children have talents and I think it's wonderful that Mr. Cornett is not only looking out for their safety but for preserving and safeguarding their talents as well. He's a true hero and a true neighbor."

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