

PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Thursday, May 28, 2015; W. 58th Street and Pear Avenue: Joe DiRocco, President of Citizens Bank, Ohio talks about a donation of \$140,000 by Citizens Bank toward the cost of building the first tiny house in Cleveland. (See related article and photos on page 4).



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Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

West Side Market threatened as customers from other businesses take over its traditional parking area

by Chuck Hoven

A visit to the West Side Market on a recent weekday offered a demonstration of the parking problem. While the parking lot was full, the number of shoppers in the market did not come close to reflecting the number of cars in the parking lot. Vince Bertonaschi,

a member of the West Side Market Tenants Association Board, and a former president of the organization, says the parking problem is a result of poor planning by the City of Cleveland. He says they allowed many bars, restaurants and other businesses to open in the neighborhood without requiring

them to secure sufficient parking. Customers of those businesses are parking in the West Side Market parking lot – crowding out potential shoppers.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Indeed, a new zoning designation used in the area, called a Pedestrian Retail Overlay Zone, allows businesses to open in these zones with lower numbers of parking spaces than normally required by the City of Cleveland. The theory is that customers will be able to walk, bike or take the bus to these specially designated areas of the city. However, many of the businesses that opened in the West Side Market District cater to a car using audience as evidenced by the full parking lots and maxed out on street parking in the neighborhood.

In August of last year, the city of Cleveland failed to renew the West Side Market Tenants Association lease for the parking lot. Bertonaschi says, "They stole our parking lot." Indeed, a brief historical search through the Cleveland Memory Project reveals a 1965 photo from the *Cleveland Press* that refers to the "Official opening of the West Side Market parking lot." City legislation in 1963 that purchased some of the houses that were torn down to make way for the parking

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Wednesday, June 17, 2015, West Side Market, W. 25th and Lorain Avenue: West Side Market Merchant Vince Bertonaschi, the former president of the West Side Market Tenants Association explains some of the history of the West Side Market Parking lot.

Community Health Improvement Plan seeks health and wellness for all the people in Cuyahoga County

The Health Improvement Partnership (HIP) – Cuyahoga released the first ever, countywide Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) on June 11th at the Ariel International Center on E. 40th Street in Cleveland. The plan, many years in the making, was spurred along in response to a 2009 analysis of life expectancy in Cuyahoga County which showed a 24.5 year difference in life expectancy between areas of Cuyahoga County where people lived the longest lives and areas where people on average lived the shortest lives.

Over eighty government and nonprofit organizations and many individuals joined in the effort to complete the CHIP. The mission statement of Cuyahoga's Health Improvement Partnership states, "HIP-Cuyahoga's mission is to inspire, influence, and advance policy, environmental, and lifestyle changes that foster health and wellness for everyone who lives, works, learns, and plays in Cuyahoga County."

A chart in the report shows life expectancy in different neighborhoods and municipalities in Cuyahoga County in the period of 2008-2010. With the exception of Downtown Cleveland, all the neighborhoods in Cleveland had life expectancies of 78.6 years or less. Seven Cleveland neighborhoods – four on the West Side and three on the East Side had life expectancies of 72.7 years or less. The West Side neighborhoods falling in this low life expectancy category are: Brooklyn Centre, Clark Fulton, Stockyard and Edgewater neighborhoods. The East Side neighborhoods in this category are: Fairfax, Kinsman and Euclid Green. In contrast some suburban areas had life expectancies of 82.8 years or more. Areas with the highest life expectancies included: Rocky River, Broadview Heights, Brecksville, Pepper Pike, Gates Mills and Chagrin Falls.

An introductory letter from three government health board

continued on page 6

by Chuck Hoven

On May 30th, the Cleveland Teachers Union (CTU) and Common Good Ohio hosted another Breakfast with CTU President David



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Tuesday, June 2, 2015; St. Rocco Early Childhood Learning Center, 3205 Fulton Road: Mrs. Renée S. Motko retires after 43 years of teaching preschool in Cleveland. Motko taught for the last 7 years at St. Rocco's Early Childhood Learning Center. Prior to that she taught Near West Side preschoolers for three years at Luther Memorial School Early Childhood Program and for 20 years at Trinity Lutheran Pre-School.

Coalition forms to seek plans, tools and resources necessary for success at 23 Investment Schools

by Chuck Hoven

Quolke. The event held at the Breen Center at St. Ignatius High School featured a discussion between members of the teachers union, members of Common Good Ohio,

and members of the Cleveland Education Committee on the critical importance of success in turning around the Cleveland Metropolitan Schools

continued on page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, June 6, 2015, My MetroHealth, My Community Family Festival, MetroHealth Medical Center, corner of W. 25th and MetroHealth Drive: MetroHealth RN Mary Sanabria Simko checks the blood pressure and blood sugar level of West Side resident Ahmed Morad. Over 350 people attended the Family Festival with over 100 people taking advantage of free health screenings.



Saturday, June 6, 2015, My MetroHealth, My Community Family Festival, MetroHealth Medical Center, corner of W. 25th and MetroHealth Drive: Volunteers Angie Garcia (Left) and Brianna Shagovac (Center) offer translation services while MetroHealth RN Teresa Simpson (Right) signs people in for free health screenings.



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.

Simpson Neighbors Community Wide Yard Sale
Saturday August 1st
9 AM - 5 PM
W. 82 - W. 84
W. 86 - W. 88 - W. 90
between
Clark Ave & Denison Ave



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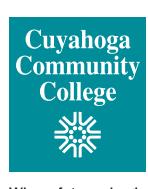
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Tri-C Launches New Adult Diploma Program

Participants earn diploma and career credential; enrollment opens July 6

A new program launching at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) will link earning a high school diploma with free job training for adults, age 22 or older, who left school before graduating.

Enrollment in the Adult Diploma Program at Tri-C opens Monday, July 6. The state-funded project is designed to provide the schooling and training needed for jobs within in-demand fields.

Those accepted into the program will simultaneously earn a high school diploma and an industry credential. The College's program will prepare participants for careers in health-care services, manufacturing, logistics and construction.

"Ohio adults without a high school diploma are twice as likely to live in poverty as those with a diploma," said JaNice Marshall, associate vice president of access and community engagement at Tri-C. "This program represents a pathway to a brighter future."

Students will choose a career pathway and work under a personalized success plan. The approach will embed academics — such as math and reading — into career and technical coursework.

Unlike in traditional classrooms, students will show they have mastered their courses by passing a job skills test rather than a traditional academic test.

Participants may receive instruction through a blend of classroom and online sources in addition to video conferencing, academic coaching and hands-on training in work settings. Career guidance also will be offered.

To enroll or obtain more information, call 216-987-0610, or go to www.tri-c.edu/adultdiploma.

The Ohio Department of Education awarded Tri-C a grant to start the program and develop a new approach to adult education.

homebound patrons to borrow books, magazines, music CDs, DVDs and Books-on-CD, mostly for three-week periods. Individuals who are physically unable to visit their local library either because of age or disability are eligible to apply. To register, call the Homebound Services program at 216/623-7005 Monday - Friday from 10 am to 5 pm.

JOBS

JOB FAIRS TO RECRUIT substitute paraprofessionals and full-time and substitute food-service workers will be sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. The fair for food-service workers will be at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, July 14 at the East Professional Center, East 79th Street and Superior Avenue. The fair for paraprofessionals, or instructional aides, is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Tuesday, July 21 at Lincoln-West High School, 3202 W. 30th St. Food-service employee hours vary by position from two to eight hours per day and starting pay is at least \$10.89 per hour. New paraprofessionals, or instructional aides, will earn \$9.53 per hour. Applicants should arrive at the fairs as early as possible to have the best chance of getting an interview. Applications may be submitted online at the fairs, but candidates are encouraged to apply in advance at www.teachcleveland.org.

KIDS' GARDEN PROGRAMS

CHILDREN K-5 can sign up at Kentucky Community Garden across from Kentucky School at West 38th and Franklin. Summer program meets Wednesdays through August 12 from 5 to 7 pm. Parents can sign up children at Kentucky Garden on the first Wednesday they attend.

KINDERGARTEN

REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN now for kindergarten by contacting the Cleveland Metropolitan Schools at 216/838-3675 or visiting www.clevelandmetroschools.org. Birth certificates, immunization records, proof of residence, and if needed guardianship records are required.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

DONATE BOOKS TO "LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES" at these Cleveland Public Library locations: Walz Branch (7910 Detroit Ave. - 216/623-7095) and Jefferson Branch (850 Jefferson Ave. - 216/623-7004). Books for children and teens are especially needed.

SOMEONE NEEDED TO BUILD A LIBRARY STRUCTURE FOR BALTIC PARK: Tiny little structures that can hold about 30 books that kids borrow in a convenient location and then return when done reading. People donate more books to replenish and refresh titles to keep little ones reading. Simple carpentry skills are needed and some material money may be available to offset the cost. Contact Anita at Cudell at 216.228.4383.

MARKET DISTRICT

MARKET DISTRICT AMBASSADORS are available Thursday, Friday and Saturday until midnight to serve as safety escorts as well as to deal with panhandling, trash and graffiti removal, and provide directions and friendly assistance. To request a safety escort, call 216/621-6000. The boundaries served are from Gehring to Chatham to W. 28th to Bridge to W. 26th to Jay to W. 24.

MUSIC

OHIO CITY STAGES, sponsored by the Cleveland Museum of Art, on select Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm in front

of the Transformed Station for a block party featuring global musical artists in free outdoor concerts. The performers are: King Sunny Ade & His African Beats (julju/Nigeria) on July 8, Ondatropica (tropical/Colombia) on July 15, Tamikrest (Saharan/Mali) on July 22, and Los Cojolites (Son jarocho/Mexico) on July 29. **EDGEWATER LIVE** will be held on Thursdays from 5:30 until 8:30 pm through August 13th at the Lakefront Reservation (Edgewater Park). The concert on July 2 will feature Sunset Strip with Billy Morris, July 9 Almost Famous, July 16 The Spazmatics, 23rd Thunder Gun Express, and July 30 Rock the House. For more information, call 216/635-3200. Pedicabs to Edgewater Live leave every ten minutes from the corner of 65th and Detroit Ave.

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM seeking engaged community leaders who believe that Cleveland's best days are ahead, consider enhancing your skills by applying to the Neighborhood Leadership Development Program. The program is a 9-month commitment that will help you impact your community and city. Contact NLDP for an application at 216/776.6167 or apply on-line at nlpcleveland.com. The application deadline is August 5.

PARENT-SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT THE CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT is taking applica-continued on page 7

Correction

In the June 2015 issue of the *Plain Press* there is a mistake in the caption under the photo of Joan Southgate at the Station Hope Block Party at St. John's Church. The year that Southgate walked the 519-mile route from Ripley, Ohio to St. Catherine's Ontario is incorrect. The correct year is 2002.

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GARDEN WALK CLEVELAND

A free, self-guided tour of gardens, urban farms, vineyards, and orchards, will be held on July 11 and 12 from 11 am to 5 pm.

Neighborhood headquarters are at Detroit-Shoreway (The Labyrinth at West 65th Street and Clinton), **West Park** (West Park Station at 17015 Lorain Avenue), and **Old Brooklyn** (O'Reilly's Auto Parts at 4280 Fulton Road). Stop by a headquarters to pick up a neighborhood garden guide. Headquarters also have car parking, bike parking, restrooms, water and maps. For more information, log onto <http://www.gardenwalkcleveland.org>.

GORDON SQUARE

THIRD FRIDAYS @78TH STREET STUDIOS will be held on Friday, July 17th. Sip wine and chat with friends. Every Friday visit the lunchtime Open House at W. 78th, lunch at the Spice Box and visit at least 10 galleries open 11 am - 4 pm.

HOMEBOUND SERVICES

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY offers a FREE, fast and convenient way for

Residents receive update on West Shoreway, Edgewater Park and Shoppes on Clifton

About 300 people gathered at Louisa May Alcott School on June 4th for an update on three different projects: the West Shoreway Reconstruction, Cleveland Metroparks plans for Edgewater Park and plans for Shoppes on Clifton.

West Shoreway

Kristen Bowen, of Michael Baker International and Associates, said that the Ohio Department of Transportation plans for the West Shoreway involve changing it into a 35 mile-per-hour boulevard from Lake Avenue to the Main Avenue Bridge. There will still be three lanes in each direction, but the lanes will be narrower to slow traffic. Also there will be a 14-foot wide median strip with native trees, shrubs and other greenery.

Pedestrians and bicycles will have access to Edgewater Park through the three current pedestrian tunnels at Lake, W. 76th and W. 65th. In addition to the exit ramps from the boulevard, vehicles will be able to enter Edgewater Park via a new extension of W. 73rd Street by the end of this year. Unlike the original plan, the final plan includes no lights or crosswalks on the new boulevard. Bowen estimated that cars traveling at the new speed limit of 35 mph would add 90 seconds to their travel time when compared to the old speed limit of 50 mph. The work on the roadway is expected to be finished in December of 2017. Landscaping will be completed by Spring of 2018. Plans also call for the closure of the W. 28th Street East bound entrance to the Shoreway.

In addition to the roadway work, plans call for a multipurpose trail along the new boulevard. From the West the multipurpose trail will run on the North side of the boulevard from Edgewater and West Boulevard to connect with existing multipurpose trails in Edgewater Park. From the East the multipurpose trail will start at a newly redesigned W. 25th Street intersection on the south side of the boulevard, it will cross to the north side at W. 28th travel west to W. 49th where it will again go to the south side and travel west to connect with a route to the tunnel at W. 65th Street. The Metroparks will be responsible for maintaining the part of the trail north of the train tracks. The City of Cleveland will be responsible for maintenance of the trail south of the tracks.

Edgewater Park

Metroparks spokesperson Sean McDermott noted several changes that are planned for the park.

Around about is planned for where the new W. 73rd street will come into

the park. Directional signage on the roundabout will direct cars to seven different destinations including the Whiskey Island, the Pier, and the Beach.

A new two story Beach House will be constructed about 200 feet South of the current beach house, which will be demolished. The W. 76th Street tunnel will let out on an elevated walkway that leads to the second story of the Beach House. Bicycle racks will be available for those riding their bikes to the park.

McDermott says the deck on the second story of the Beach House is designed for viewing sunsets. The Beach House will have food service, restrooms, lockers and an open-air patio. McDermott says the restaurant at the new Beach House will feature high quality made to order food and the Metroparks will continue the practice of purchasing ice cream from Honey Hut. The Beach House will contain a retail outlet selling MetroParks merchandise and will offer equipment rental supportive of various activities at the park. The new Beach House will be an environmental friendly Green building and Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessible.

McDermott said the plans for Edgewater Park include provisions for a bus stop on the lower level. He noted that Regional Transit Authority (RTA) would make that decision based on ridership projections. He urged those interested in having a bus to Edgewater Park to email RTA Executive Director Joe Calabrese.

Shoppes on Clifton

Ward 15 Councilman Matt Zone offered an update on plans for the Shoppes on Clifton to be built between W. 116 and W. 117th on the North Side of Clifton. He said the site plan calls for 21,000 square feet of potential retail space for up to four retail outlets. He said one of the tenants would be a bank. Zone said Lucky's Market from Bolder Colorado plans to open a grocery on the site by Thanksgiving of 2016. Zone described Lucky's Market as featuring a high quality organic product. He said Lucky's Market is a grocery started by the founder of Wild Oats.

Zone said that along the Lake Avenue side of the site, Developer Andrew Brickman plans to build eleven units of market rate townhouses. Zone said the townhouses are expected to sell in the \$400,000+ price range. The development will incorporate pieces of the former Fifth Church of Christ Scientists into the design of the project. The development will also contain a passive park.



Wednesday, June 3, 2015; W. 92nd & Lorain Avenue: A fire in May of this year severely damaged the building that once housed Lorain Laundromat on the bottom floor. The building just east of the Laundromat building was also severely damaged. At press time, both buildings have been demolished. The Lorain Laundromat Building will be missed. Anita Brindza, Executive Director of Cudell Improvement, called the building the "Queen" of the Lorain Station Historic District. The fire marks the second major fire along the Lorain Avenue corridor during the first half of this year. On March 17th a grease fire that started on the grill destroyed the building that housed Steve's Lunch at W. 50th and Lorain Avenue.

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Paul Dunbar School seeks more students for arts infused program

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Paul Dunbar School at 2159 W. 29th Street, just South of Lorain Avenue in the Ohio City neighborhood, is actively recruiting new students for the 2015-2016 school year.

Principal Sofia Piperis, just starting her second year as principal of the school, says the school, which serves children from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, features an arts infused program. Piperis says, "Our students engage in the arts and are immersed in arts experiences through our partnerships with the Cleveland Orchestra and the arts room in the building is equipped with a kiln."

Principal Piperis says, "Along with a rigorous academic model, we engage students through arts infused instruction. Students participate in instructional thematic units that incorporate the arts through dance, theater, visual arts, and instrumental and vocal music."

Dunbar School offers a wide range of activities, which include student support programs. Horizen Education Centers offers before and after school care program at the school. St. Ignatius High School Breen Center. The school will be offering violin lessons through a partnership with the Cleveland Orchestra and the arts room in the building is equipped with a kiln.

Safety Tip of the Month: Personal Safety -- General Safety Tips:

1 - The most effective way to prevent crime is through common sense, awareness, and basic safety precautions. Remember that your safety is your responsibility. Use your senses to always be aware of your surroundings.

2 - Let someone know where you are going and when you'll return, and let them know if you are going to be late or your plans change.

3 - Know the areas where you live and work. Find out the locations of police and fire stations, hospitals, and businesses open 24 hours.

4 - Stay aware and awake on public transportation and use well-lit spots.

5 - Be aware when using the ATM machine, and have your card ready to use.

The Safety Tip of the Month is a service of The Cleveland Police Foundation in partnership with the Ohio Crime Prevention Association provided to the Plain Press courtesy of Cleveland Police Captain Keith Sulzer.

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Paul Dunbar is open to students throughout the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. A tour of Paul Dunbar's new facility and an information session on the school is scheduled for July 30th from 6-8 p.m. Parents can call 216-551-6506 to sign up.

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Thursday, May 28, 2015; W. 58th Street and Pear Avenue: Jenny Spencer, Managing Director of Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization welcomes the Tiny House movement to the EcoVillage in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood. She says the green built energy efficient houses will allow people to live on one floor while they age in place.

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Thursday, May 28, 2015; W. 58th Street and Pear Avenue: A display of the possible layout of the interior of the proposed 557 square foot Tiny House shows placement of fixtures in the bathroom.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Tiny house planned for vacant lot in EcoVillage neighborhood

The Tiny House movement is coming to Cleveland's EcoVillage in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood. On May 28th on the Northwest corner of W. 58th and Pear Avenue, Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, Citizens Bank and Ward 15 Councilman Matt Zone announced plans to build a tiny 557 square foot house on the corner lot.

Councilman Zone noted the EcoVillage, started in 1998 to showcase green building and sustainability, is a fitting place to build tiny houses. He said the EcoVillage, the neighborhood within a half mile radius of the W. 65th Regional Transit Authority Rapid Station, was created to offer a model on how the built environment can help improve the lives of residents while reducing sprawl and helping the planet.

Jenny Spencer, Managing Director of Detroit Shoreway Community

Development Organization, thanked Citizens Bank (formerly Charter One) for their support, which created the opportunity to bring the tiny house experiment to the EcoVillage neighborhood. She described the proposed tiny houses as ranging from 150 to 800 square feet, green built and energy efficient. Spencer said the tiny houses would offer residents the opportunity to live on a single floor and age in place.

Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization (DSCDO) staff members said the 557 square foot tiny house proposed for the lot on W. 58th and Pear will feature two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and a bathroom on the first floor. The house will also have a second floor loft. The house will be heated and cooled using electric power and be equipped with a small washer and dryer. They expect the electric bill to be less than \$400 per year. The house will be built on a permanent foundation – but will have no basement. The cost of the house is still undetermined, but DSCDO staff estimate the cost to range from \$80,000 to \$100,000.

Joe DiRocco, President of Citizens Bank, which contributed \$140,000 toward the initial costs of planning, designing, constructing and marketing the first the tiny house, sees a market for the tiny houses among a variety of segments of the population including aging seniors, professionals, young adults, and empty nesters. He said the tiny houses would offer people looking to downsize the opportunity to build new on a vacant lot and have a home that can be maintained for a fraction of the cost of a traditional home. DiRocco said he hoped the 557 square foot tiny house would be the first of 2 or 3 tiny houses to be built on the lot at W. 58th and Pear.

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IMPROVING INVESTMENT SCHOOLS

continued from page one

School District's 23 Investment Schools. (In the area served by the Plain Press, the Investment Schools are: Lincoln West High School, Walton School, Luis Muñoz Marin School, and Almira School.)

Attempting to put things in context, Quolke said that in November of 2016, Cleveland voters will be asked to renew the three year tax levy for the Cleveland Plan for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Quolke said the success of the Cleveland Plan hinges on what happens to the investment schools.

Quolke noted that the Cleveland Teachers Union was partnering with the parent and community group Common Good Ohio on a campaign, which has a goal of "Reclaiming the Promise of Public Education." He noted some of the obstacles created for public education in Cleveland from the national No Child Left Behind Legislation that imposed massive amounts of testing on schools and offered punishment for low performing schools rather than resources to help with improvement.

Quolke spoke of the failure of the Ohio legislature to act in creating a fairer system of funding education, despite the four times the Ohio Supreme Court found the State's "broken funding system dependent on Property Tax" to be unconstitutional.

Linking the national movement to test and punish to the school privatization movement, Quolke noted the advent of charter school legislation in 1997 in Ohio. Quolke noted the subsequent move to create Mayoral control of the Cleveland Schools in 1998. He then talked about Senate Bill 5 in 2011 that attacked the collective bargaining rights of unions and was soundly rejected by Ohio voters.

Quolke noted that in the aftermath of the defeat of SB 5 a group of Cleveland leaders were instrumental in meeting with the State legislature to come up with House Bill 525, an amendment of a previous state law that gave the Cleveland Mayor control of the schools. Quolke says when the bill was first introduced it was "horrible." He said it was all about ways to fire teachers and eliminate their job security. He said

the legislation was based on the New Orleans model that wiped out public education in that city.

Following the introduction of this bill, Quolke said the Cleveland Teachers Union entered into a dialogue which included Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, CMSD Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon, Cleveland City Council members, representatives of the Cleveland and Gund Foundations, representatives of the Breakthrough Charter Schools and representatives of the Greater Cleveland Partnership. Together they changed HB 525 from what the CTU believed was a very detrimental bill to a less horrible bill that preserved some of the voice of the educators. Quolke said the solution, avoided state control and turning the Cleveland Metropolitan School District over to the "so-called reformers." Quolke said the process of coming to a solution of the problem of fixing HB 525 was not very open; parents, teachers and community members, with very few exceptions, were not included in the process of forming the legislation that paved the way for the Cleveland Plan.

The Cleveland Plan involved passing a school levy that would bring in an estimated \$70 million per year. The levy would last three years and be subject to voter approval to be renewed. Prior to the passage of the levy, Quolke said the school district "was on the verge of bankruptcy." He said, if the levy had not passed, "the devastating impact would be hard to even imagine."

Now two years into the Cleveland Plan Quolke asked, "How is the plan working? What do we see that is different?"

Teachers originally had high hopes of transforming the 23 Investment or Corrective Action Schools through the addition of more resources. However, Quolke says the school district wants to change the plan from one year to the next. "They don't get a plan and stick with it. That limits the chance of success," he said.

Quolke said the issue with the Corrective Action Plan changes for the 23 Investment schools is not that teachers are opposed to dress codes, lesson plans or home visits the School District place in the



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, June 7, 2015; St. Michael Archangel Parish, 3114 Scranton Road: Ward 14 Councilman Brian Cummins presents Reverend Father James McCreight with a proclamation from Cleveland City Council for his service to St. Michael's Parish. McCreight is retiring after 47 years as a priest – thirty-eight of those years were served at St. Michael's Parish, the last 12 as pastor. St. Michael's parishioners sang "May the Lord always bless you and keep you" at the Sundays masses and held receptions after the masses to offer Father McCreight best wishes for a happy retirement.

Corrective Actions Plans. He said teachers are already doing those things. That is not the problem. Those things cost the school district zero dollars, he said.

The issue is, where is the investment? "Are we putting tools and resources into the investment schools?" Quolke asked. As an

example, Quolke noted successful math and reading programs developed at one of the Investment schools.

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Thursday, June 11, 2015; The Ariel International Center, 1163 E. 40th Street: The Health Improvement Partnership – Cuyahoga released its first ever Community Health Improvement Plan. Amongst the panelist helping to introduce the plan to the public are: (L-R) Rita Horwitz, RN BSN, director of business development and operations, Better Health Partnership; Erika Trapl, PhD, assistant professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, associate director of the Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods and director of the Survey Development Lab at CWRU; Greg Brown, executive director at Policy Bridge; and Heidi Gullett, MD, MPH, assistant professor, Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Medicine.

HEALTH PLAN

continued from page one

or department administrators speaks of opportunity gaps for individuals saying, "Resources that help create health such as stable housing, access to good education, availability of healthy food choices and safe places to exercise are not universally present and, where lacking, are largely responsible for creating these opportunity gaps."

The goal of the CHIP is to assure that all residents of Cuyahoga County have "the resources, access, and ability to live their healthiest lives."

To that end the health planners participating in the study identified 14 health priorities: Infant and Early Childhood Mortality, Tobacco Use and Prevention, Chronic Disease Management, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Improved Nutrition and Physical Activity, In School and Out of School Supports, Quality of Life for Older Adults, Violence Reduction, Health and Land, Natural Environment, Public Health Job Development,

Public Education Reinvestment, Eliminating Racism As a Social Determinant of Health, and Improving Coordination between Clinical and Public Health.

Of those 14 health priorities, HIP-Cuyahoga chose to focus on four priorities to address over the next five years: Eliminating Racism as a Social Determinant of Health, Improved Nutrition and Physical Activity, Improving Coordination between Clinical and Public Health, and Chronic Disease Management.

Eliminating Structural Racism

Greg Brown, Executive Director of PolicyBridge spoke on the work of the Subcommittee addressing Eliminating Racism as a Social Determinant of Health. The report noted that certain racial and ethnic groups "face steep obstacles and barriers to living healthy and prosperous lives." The plan hopes to address "systems and structures that act to disadvantage people of color." Brown said, "We must change our systems and structures to reach the outcomes we want to see."

In explaining structural and institutional racism, the report

notes racial differences in power, status and access to opportunity. It also describes how racism can impact people's self image, their interactions with others, their health and quality of life. It talks of structural racism contributing to loss of economic opportunity, increased stress, and social isolation and exclusion. Some factors cited are "who gets jobs, how schools treat students, and even the availability of transportation in a neighborhood."

Brown talked about historical patterns such as redlining of neighborhoods, which impacted the ability of residents of certain neighborhoods to obtain house loans or insurance. He said conditions in some neighborhoods today are a result of red lines drawn on maps back in the 1940s.

Neighborhood Family Practice's Chief Executive Officer Jean Polster said the issue in the neighborhoods her agency serves is more structural poverty than structural racism. She said people of all races and ethnicities, including Caucasians, facing the same issues talked about in the report that lead to poor health outcomes. Brown said he was familiar with the West

Side neighborhoods and said, "the data in those neighborhoods aligned with the data in the African American community." He said lack of educational opportunities and employment opportunities in those neighborhoods were structural problems that increased poverty.

Healthy Eating & Active Living

Erika Trapl, PhD, of the Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods at Case Western Reserve University, spoke of efforts of the Subcommittee on Health Eating and Active Living to help assure all areas of Cuyahoga County have access to healthy foods and safe places to engage in physical activity. The Cuyahoga County Health Improvement Plan outlines three strategies it says "will help create the environments that make the health choice the easy choice for everyone in Cuyahoga County.

First, in communities without a full service grocery store, the group hopes to identify corner stores that can serve as a reliable source of healthy produce and food. A Healthy Corner Store Certification initiative will help the corner stores secure healthy food and produce so it can be sold at an affordable price. The goal is to have a healthy corner store or full service grocery within a half mile of every resident within the next five years. Trapl talked about Tremont West Development Corporation's Corner Store Initiative as an example of how to pursue the goal.

The second strategy is to provide streets with safe places to walk, run, ride bicycles, and access public transportation. The goal is to institute complete street initiatives in communities throughout Cuyahoga County, establish safe routes to school, and develop networks of protected bike boulevards.

The third strategy is to develop shared use agreements that would allow members of the public access to facilities that would increase their opportunity for physical activity. The agreements would allow use of facilities such as schools and businesses in off hours for recreational activities. Trapl hoped that neighborhood organizations would get involved in creating these agreements with institutions in their neighborhood.

In light of this third strategy, Ann Hill of MetroHealth Medical Center challenged HIP-Cuyahoga to get involved in a concrete issue. She said that the Cleveland Metropolitan School System is currently deciding what schools to rebuild and what schools to tear down and eliminate.

She said, under different scenarios the gymnasium and pool at Lincoln West High School, very much in use, could be torn down. State dollars that offer matching funds to the school construction fund won't pay for rehabbing the swimming pool. Hill challenged HIP-Cuyahoga to work to change the state policy about what the state will pay for. She also urged the group to rally to save the pool and the gym. She said, "It is criminal to tear down major assets."

Terry Allan, Health Commissioner of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, said the group needed to make this issue known to decision makers and use Community Engagement Networks to galvanize efforts around the issue. He promised to bring the issue up at one of the next meetings of HIP-Cuyahoga.

Clinical and Public Health

The plan notes that while Cuyahoga County has highly ranked health care institutions and high quality public health institutions, the county ranks 65th out of 88 counties in Ohio for health outcomes. In order to make progress to changing this low ranking, HIP-Cuyahoga CHIP calls for clinical care "to join the current public health movement to broaden its focus from the treatment of illness and disease to include prevention efforts that address complex social issues like education, racial segregation, poverty and inequality."

Heidi Gullet, MD, MPH, assistant professor – Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, spoke of the importance of health care organizations doing some soul searching and understanding what health equity means and how to break down barriers to health equity. She stressed that equity didn't mean that everyone was given the same thing, rather, equity involved getting everything needed by a specific group. As an example, she said, if she offered everyone in the room a pair of size seven pumps, how many could wear them? In contrast, if everyone was fitted with shoes of their size and width, they could use them.

Gullet talked about the importance of health care providers working with public health agencies to understand how to work together to improve the health outcomes in the community. One early initiative involves an effort to tackle pediatric asthma with home interventions that help to reduce asthma triggers in the home. The effort is targeting a Medicaid qualified population. The group hopes to convince Medicaid

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West 25th Street Furnishings plans to close by the end of July

West 25th Street Furnishings at 2104 W. 25th Street, housed on a corner that has historical ties to the West Side Market, is closing for good at the end of July. Brothers Tom and Alex Feuerman, the business owners, say they have been unable to renew their lease at an affordable price. The landlord, Maron and Company, which now owns all the buildings on W. 25th between Lorain Avenue and Chatham is seeking higher rents, which it believes the area will now support.

While the Cleveland Hostel has committed to renting the upper floors to expand its business, no tenant has yet been announced for the first floor area where West 25th Street Furnishing has displayed its furniture for many years.

The Feuerman brothers purchased the business 36 years ago from its founders Herman Herskovic and Gilbert Rosewater. Tom Feuerman worked at the store for 10 years before the brothers purchased it in 1979. The original store opened sometime in the 1940s just south of Chatham.

In the late 1950s, W. 25th Street Furnishings moved north of Chatham to the corner building that had been recently vacated by the

Shalala Grocery (originally Sahley's Grocery). They later expanded to take the space next door as well, once occupied by Victor Tea Company.

When the Shalala Grocery and its predecessor Sahley's Grocery were located at 2104 W. 25th at Chatham that corner and indeed all of W. 25th from Lorain to Chatham regularly had the sidewalks covered with fruit and vegetable merchants on days that the West Side Market was open. Prior to the opening of the covered Fruit and Vegetable stands at the West Side Market – the merchants regularly lined the street to sell fruits and vegetables.

A search of the Cleveland Memory Project reveals a 1946 photo from the Cleveland Press Archives of the corner of W. 25th and Chatham with "a crowd of shoppers and produce vendors." Shoppers went to the West Side Market building for their meat and dairy products, visited the fruit and vegetable merchants on the street, and picked up their dry goods at the grocery store at 2104 W. 25th on the corner of W. 25th and Chatham where W. 25th Street Furnishings is now selling out its stock in to prepare to close for good.

HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

continued from page 6

to pay for the cost of the home interventions.

Chronic Disease Management

The HIP-Cuyahoga Health Improvement Partnership report notes "It is harder to practice



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Thursday, June 18, 2015; West 25th Street Furnishings, 2104 W. 25th Street: Brothers Tom Feuerman and Alex Feuerman, who purchased West 25th Street Furnishings in 1979, are closing the doors of their business on July 31st.

are such places. The CHIP report further states, "Individuals of color and poorer individuals live in the City of Cleveland; thus they get chronic diseases more often and are more likely to have problems with controlling their chronic diseases. All of this leads to groups of individuals, in vulnerable communities, living sicker and dying earlier."

The study notes examples of

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chronic diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, asthma, and mental health illnesses. It notes such diseases keep coming back or never go away. The study proposes improved clinical management and self-management of these diseases. The group's effort involves instituting best practices in area clinics and making area residents aware of self-help resources.

Rita Horwitz, Director of Business Development and Operations for Better Health Partnership, spoke on behalf of the Chronic Disease Management Subcommittee. Horwitz noted that an early initiative of the subcommittee involves

duplicating a program designed by Kaiser (now Health Span) that dramatically increased the number of patients with high blood pressure that had it under control.

In concluding the roll out of the HIP-Cuyahoga CHIP, Terry Allan, Health Commissioner of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health said, "Everyone deserves the right to be healthy. It is time to put words into action."

Editor's Note: To learn more about HIP Cuyahoga Health Improvement Partnership or to volunteer for one of the subcommittees visit: www.hipcuyahoga.org, email: hip.cuyahoga@gmail.com or call 216-309-2447.

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INVESTMENT SCHOOLS

continued from page one

Schools – Luis Muñoz Marin – where 100% of the students showed improvement in their math scores and 98% of students improved their reading scores. Quolke called for the CMSD to supply the tools and resources to replicate successful models like that at other schools.

The dialogue at the schools, said Quolke, should not be around what we perceive, but around "what is working and how do we improve? What needs improvement, and how do we get there?"

In 2016, the three years on the current school levy will be up. "When we go back to the community and say this is why you need to invest in this levy, we don't need adults fighting."

Quolke said once the levy was passed, the partnership that worked to pass the 2012 levy dissolved. He called for an effort to pull the same people together – teachers, foundations and the business community – to work to get this right.

Quolke also called on the formation of more parent organizations and more involvement of parents in the classroom.

Don Freeman of the Cleveland Education Committee called on a coalition of the members of Common Good, the Cleveland Teachers Union and the Cleveland Education Committee to work together to

address the issues raised by David Quolke. Freeman noted that not only does the levy passed in 2012, expire in 2016, but also the first 13 of the 23 investment schools if they have not show sufficient progress in the eyes of the Greater Cleveland Partnership and the Cleveland Foundation – those folks calling the shots – the CEO and the Board of Education can close those schools.

"Any further closure of city schools will further expedite the end of public schools in Cleveland as presently comprised and any further inkling of democracy we will have." Freeman called on a the coalition to be committed in the upcoming 2015-2016 school year to work to assure the success of the Investment Schools "to prevent the total replacement of public schools with elite public schools and charter schools."

Responding to Freeman's statement, Quolke recalled the closure of 24 schools when Eugene Sanders was CEO. "I don't know if we ever recovered from that. Too often, we don't realize what a hub a school is to a community."

Doug Henderson of the Cleveland Education Committee noted that the Boston Consulting Group put together a plan with the Mayor, School Board and Transitional Alliance a portfolio model that basically says, "If you don't like your school, go to another school." Henderson said, "Nobody has a plan to do something constructive with

the investment schools."

Pastor Aaron Phillips, a member of Common Good asked CTU President Quolke to comment on rumors circulating that Lincoln West High School could be closed and become a charter school. Quolke said that on July 1 of 2011 the State's Anti Education School Budget Bill was passed it included a June 29th backdoor budget deal that allowed the Mayor of Cleveland and the Chief Executive Officer to convert any Cleveland Public School into a charter school and eliminate collective bargaining for the school's staff.

Under that rule, Quolke said, one of the options is for Cleveland to close an investment school or turn it into a charter school. "What would we do at an investment school if that notion comes up. We say, no you are not going to do it. Reform with us, not to us," said Quolke.

Quolke asked those present to look at the big picture. He asked, "What does school reform look like in every neighborhood and every school?" He said, "The face of the next levy is the investment schools."

Quolke talked about the urgency of pulling people together in each and every investment school. He said the Cleveland Teachers Union is starting to partner with the community and the community is starting to partner with teachers. He called for hard conversations between parents, community members and teachers about what is working and what is not working in investment schools in order, going forward, to find solutions.

"What we are going to do next is to figure out community partners and schools and form community, parent and teacher groups at every single investment school," said Quolke.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, June 6, 2015; Work Smart Clothing Factory, 11645 Lorain Avenue: Owner Nick Katsaros, age 79, reopened the store this past December after being closed for four months due to a fire in July of 2014. The fire started in an outlet for a window air conditioner. Katsaros opened the Work Smart Clothing store in 1980 where he sells everyday work clothes – "basic stuff, nothing fancy." He says people who live in the neighborhood and former residents keep coming back because his prices are "so good." The building and lost merchandise were restored and replenished with the help of insurance.

WEST SIDE MARKET

continued from page one

lot, specifically says, "This parcel is needed for the development of the West Side Market Off Street Parking Project." The West Side Market House Association (the predecessor of the Tenants Association) was heavily involved in the creation of the parking lot. In fact, they had purchased some of the houses needed for the lot in 1962 and sold them to the city for the purpose of creating the parking lot. (Ordinance number 1797-63).

The history of the parcels that were dedicated by city legislation as parking for the publicly owned West Side Market, brings into question whether the city can just arbitrarily remove that designation, and make that parking area available to private businesses in the neighborhood as well.

The City of Cleveland and Ohio City Inc. have proposed a number of ideas to alleviate the parking problem. A number of those ideas included in a *Plain Dealer* editorial on Wednesday June 24 titled *West Side Market gets a Concept-lift*.

Ideas include charging for parking in the city owned lots with the first hour or ninety minutes being free, working out a deal between Market District Businesses and the RTA to subsidize monthly bus passes for employees of local businesses, charging for on street metered parking in the area on weekends, and expanding the number of

surface parking spaces. Other ideas included in the *Plain Dealer* editorial involved changes in the operating hours of the market and allowing people to drink alcoholic beverages throughout the market – presumably by expanding the area served by the liquor license at the Market Café.

Bertonaschi fears that charging for parking at the West Side Market will hurt the business of merchants – he notes that no other grocery stores charge for parking. He also fears that allowing cars from other businesses to park in what has traditionally been the West Side Market Parking lot will squeeze out shoppers. He says while vendors that sell prepared food may benefit from people walking through the market on their way to an area bar and wanting to grab a bite to eat, the majority of vendors that sell meat, dairy products, fruits and vegetables are not going to benefit. He worries that the goal of Ohio City Inc., Ward 3 Councilman Joe Cimperman, and the City of Cleveland is to make the market into a tourist destination rather than its traditional use as a working market.

A public meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on July 7th at Franklin Circle Christian Church, 1688 Fulton Road, to discuss the proposed changes for the public parking in the neighborhood surrounding the West Side Market.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, June 6, 2015; Work Smart Clothing Factory, 11645 Lorain Avenue: The Work Smart Clothing Store reopened in December after being closed for four months due to fire damage. Owner Nick Katsaros, age 79, says he first opened the store in 1980. He says the building originally housed a Cleveland Trust Bank and the vault is still in the building. Katsaros says the corner of W. 117th and Lorain Avenue used to be the end of the Street Car Line. As a child, he remembers his parents recalling that people would ride to the end of the line, and chose from four movie theatres to attend in the immediate area.

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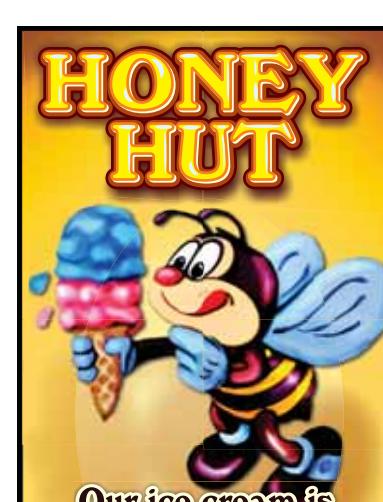
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