



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Sat., Dec. 12, 2015; LaManna's Barber Shop, W. 65th & Lorain Ave: Ernie LaManna cuts the hair of Police Lieutenant Kevin Coleman. Ernie LaManna, who has been cutting hair at W. 65th and Lorain Avenue since 1958, closed at the end of December 2015. Lieutenant Coleman says he received his first hair cut from Ernie 42 years ago and three generations of his family have had their hair cut at LaManna's Barber Shop. LaManna says he sold the shop to the owners of the restaurant and bar next door.

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Cleveland Community Police Commission asks Monitoring Team's help in "reset" of proposed City Charter provisions

by Chuck Hoven

At the December 17, 2015 meeting of the Cleveland Community Police Commission (CCPC) held at West Side Community House, 9300 Lorain Avenue, members of the Monitoring Team, charged with overseeing compliance with the consent decree between the City of Cleveland and the Justice Department, talked to the

commission about the importance of their role in the process. The Monitoring Team is answerable to Chief United States District Judge Solomon Oliver, Jr., who provides oversight to the consent decree, which represents an agreement between the City of Cleveland and the United States Justice Department to reform the Cleveland

Police Department.

Cleveland Consent Decree Monitor Matthew Barge stressed to the CCPC the importance of their role in the reform of the Cleveland Police Department. "Meaningful reform can't happen unless community input is part of that," said Barge. He urged the commission to "get involved in the substance of reforms that the consent decree requires."

Barge told the commission, "The community is looking to you not only to be the representative of their views, but to understand what is going on in the process, to serve as a translator of what the issues are and to serve as a conduit to bring those issues back to the community."

Barge also spoke of the role of his Monitoring Team as an agent of the federal court to settle disputes and make sure outcomes are consistent with the requirements of the consent decree.

Later in the course of the meeting, members of the public received a lesson on the role the Monitoring Team can play in the process, when CCPC Co-Chair Rhonda Y. Williams gave a status report on the commission's work on Police Review Board and Office of Professional Standards Charter Amendments.

Williams outlined the work continued on page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, December 12, 2015; Holidays in Gordon Square, W. 65th-W. 67th and Detroit Avenue: Carriage Limousine Service provides free horse drawn carriage rides to those visiting Gordon Square.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, December 12, 2015; Cleveland Craft Bazaar at W. 78th Street Studios: Emilie Collens Illson of Button Down Designs is sewing together a bracelet using buttons from her vast collection which features antique buttons from the 1840s through the 1940s. Illson's work is carried in two national museum shops: the Museum of American Folk Art in New York City and the Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington D.C. Illson, whose shop is in Rocky River, Ohio, says this marks the eighth year she has participated in the Cleveland Craft Bazaar.

RTA proposal to eliminate bus service on W. 65th draws concerned riders to meeting

On December 10th, at two public meetings held late afternoon and early evening at Max Hayes High School, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) riders had a chance to voice their concerns about a proposal by RTA to replace the current routes #21, #45 and #45A with a revised Route #45. The proposal, if implemented, would eliminate north-south bus service on W. 65th Street in Cleveland.

RTA officials said the proposed new route #45 would travel from downtown west to W. 25th Street, south on W. 25th to Clark Avenue, west on Clark Avenue to W. 73rd, then south on W. 73rd to Denison. The bus would then continue south on Ridge Road to the Parma Transit Center and Tri-C West with limited service to North Royalton. An RTA official said that, if they approve the new route, it would probably start operation sometime between March

and June of next year.

If the proposal is approved, the parts of the #45 and #45A routes that would be eliminated would be on Detroit Avenue from W. 25 to W. 65th, on West 65th from Detroit Avenue to Denison Avenue, and on Denison Avenue from W. 65th to Ridge Road.

RTA says the proposed route changes would allow for improved service on Clark Avenue and W. 73rd from daytime only service, five days a week, to daytime and evening service, seven days a week. Currently, the route #21 bus serves Clark Avenue. The new route #45 bus would replace the route #21 bus.

At the late afternoon meeting, most of those giving testimony opposed the loss of bus service on W. 65th Street. A resident, age 71, of W. 71st and Franklin said her neighborhood continued on page 6

Transformation Alliance reviews community wraparound strategy

by Chuck Hoven

The December 14 meeting of the Cleveland Transformation Alliance, a group, set up to monitor the Cleveland Plan to transform the schools, featured an update on the status of the Community Wraparound Strategy being used in twenty-five schools in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. The meeting also featured a panel discussion about wraparound schools in which two of the panelists are involved with schools in the Plain

Press service area.

Transformation Alliance Board Member Bill Kitson said the wraparound strategy is helpful in schools where "it is clear that kids need more help than teachers and principals can provide." He said services provided to wrap around schools have become more intentional – aligning services with the kids that need it most. Kitson said previously half of the students were using resources at schools and doing well. However, the kids

not doing well in school were not accessing the services available. Now, by aligning the services with the kids that need it most, schools are experiencing success at lifting up kids. Kitson believes this effort will also lift up families and neighborhoods while improving attendance, behavior, discipline and core competencies.

In the area served by the Plain Press, five schools are listed as wraparound schools. The schools

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, December 11, 2015; Westtown Winter Frolic, Halloran Park Skating Rink, 3550 W. 117th Street: Youths taking advantage of the free ice skating at the Westtown Winter Frolic did a lot of slipping and sliding.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, December 5, 2015; Detroit Shoreway Neighbors' Holiday Party, Gordon Square Arcade, 6516 Detroit Avenue: Unique Knierim, age 6, visits with Santa. Over 200 children participated in the party, sponsored by the West Side Little Italy Block Club, Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization and Neighborhood Connections.

ARTS

FREE OPENING WEEKEND PERFORMANCES (JANUARY 7 – 9): Cleveland Public Theatre is proud to offer free tickets to all opening weekend performances of *Incendiaries*, offered to the public as part of Cleveland Pubic Theatre's "Road to Hope" celebration. Based on the race riots that tore through Cleveland's east side Hough neighborhood in the late 1960s, *Incendiaries* delves into historical text, trial transcripts and citizen accounts to explore past conflicts between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Free tickets to opening weekend of *Incendiaries* (January 7–9) can be reserved by calling the CPT Box Office at **216.631.2727 x 501** or ordered online at www.cptonline.org using code "HOPE." Tickets must be claimed by 7:15 p.m. on day of show.

THE ART HOUSE offers a **FREE Family Open Studio** on the Third Saturday of every month from 1-3 pm at 3119 Denison Avenue. Spend time with your family as you make individual pieces or family art works. The next workshop is January 16, when you can learn to sew a fun

or scary creature with your kids. Children must be accompanied by an adult. RSVP by calling 216/398-8556 or emailing Meri at mruble@arthouseinc.org. If you must cancel, let them know so they can make room for more artists! A suggested donation of \$5.00 per group will be accepted on workshop days. For more information, visit www.arthouseinc.org or call 216/398-8556.

THE TRANSFORMER STATION'S upcoming photography exhibit "UNFIXED: The Fugitive Image" brings together objects and images that cause us to consider mortality and entropy, time and memory and the beauty of moments that can never last. "UNFIXED" will open on Friday, January 15th (and close on April 3). Transformer Station members are invited to preview the exhibition from 5 – 6 p.m. Artists Françoise and Daniel Cartier will deliver a free public lecture at 6:30 p.m on the 15th, followed by a reception. Additional Programs include Matthew Gamber Gallery Talk, Saturday, January 16th, 2 p.m.; Dr. Kate Albers Lecture, "The Ephemeral Photograph: From Salt Prints to Snapchat,"

Saturday, March 12th, 2 p.m.; Tom Persinger Gallery Talk and Performance, Sunday, April 3rd, 3 p.m.

BICYCLE SAFETY

BIKE SAFETY TIPS for children include being sure they use helmets and backpacks or carriers for books and other loose items, wear light colored and close fitting clothes (to avoid being caught in moving parts), and display front and rear reflectors. For more tips, visit the National Crime Prevention Council website at www.ncpc.org

CRIME

CRIME STOPPERS: To report information you know about a crime and remain anonymous please call CRIME STOPPERS at 216-252-7463. Visit the Crime Stoppers website at www.25CRIME.com to learn more about Crime Stoppers.

CUDELL

CUDELL IMPROVEMENT, INC. 41ST ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Saturday, January 16th at 1:30 PM. The meeting will feature a light buffet and is free of charge. Free parking at Brennan's Banquet Center, 13000 Triskett Road. The invited keynote speaker is Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur. For more information, call 216/228-4383.

EDUCATION

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®)'s **COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS** has been awarded a state grant to expand its reach by readying high school teachers to teach college-level courses. Tri-C will lead a consortium of community groups and Cuyahoga County school districts working on the project. College Credit Plus allows students in grades seven through twelve to simultaneously earn college and high school credits by taking college courses. Those classes can be taken on college campuses, online or at high schools. For more information, contact Tri-C Media Relations Manager John Horton at john.horton@tri-c.edu or 216-987-4281.

FAIR HOUSING

INDIVIDUALS WHO THINK THEY HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF HOUSING DISCRIMINATION because of their race, national origin, religion, sex, color, familial status, disability, military status, ancestry, or any other reason, can contact the Housing Research and Advocacy Center at 216/361-9240, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission at 888/278-7101 or online at www.crc.ohio.gov, or the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 800/669-9777 or online at www.hud.gov. For the hearing impaired, call 800/927-9275.

HISPANIC COMMUNITY

ATTEND FIESTA DE REYES, the Festival of the Kings, on Friday, Jan-



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.

uary 8 from 6-9 pm at the Hispanic Youth Center at 3115 Scranton. Open to children 1-14 years of age. Sponsored by the City of Cleveland. Register by calling 216/664-6248.

HOLIDAY RECYCLING TIPS

1. **Bring broken, burned out holiday lights to the CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT** through January 15. The District will accept broken, burned out or tangled strings of holiday lights for recycling. Simply drop unwanted light strings, power cords and power strips in the marked box in the District's office lobby at 4750 East 131 Street in Garfield Heights. Hours are Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. except Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
2. **BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag)** During the nation's busiest shopping season, bring your own shopping bags to reduce waste and free up your home recycling bin. Folded, reusable shopping bags also make great stocking stuffers and gift bags, too.
3. **Recycle old cell phones and other electronics at retailer near you.** If you are getting or gifting a new smartphone this year, drop off any old ones at any AT&T, Best Buy, Staples, Verizon or other retailer that offers in-store recycling services.
4. **Recycle old holiday cards, or send them to St. Jude's Ranch,** a nonprofit home for youth that collects old holiday cards for reuse. Children at St. Jude's earn money by creating new holiday cards from the old. Visit <https://stjudesranch.org/about-us/recycled-card-program/>.
5. **Don't pitch your Christmas tree – recycle it.** Many cities in Cuyahoga County offer programs to turn your tree to mulch or wood chips.
6. For more information, visit <http://www.cuyahogawd.org/> or contact Cristie Snyder at (216) 443-3707 or csnyder@cuyahogacounty.us.

HOMEBUYING

CityLIFT will provide 77 additional families with \$15,000 each in down payment assistance to those who are qualified and purchasing homes in the City of Cleveland. In order to be eligible for Cleveland CityLIFT down payment assistance, the homebuyer's household income cannot to exceed 120 percent of the area median income for Cleveland (example: family of 4 not to exceed \$79,300), complete at least 8 hour homebuyer education courses, and obtain a first mortgage loan from a participating Cleveland CityLIFT lender. To check deadlines, confirm eligibility or register, interested homebuyers should call 216/458-4663 or visit www.nhscleveland.org

HOME MAINTENANCE

2016 Jones Home Model Block Program provides up to \$8,000 in **HOME REPAIR FUNDS** to qualified homeowners for needed external repairs. Homeowners must: have proof of paid homeowners insurance policy, have at least one utility bill in homeowners name, be fully current on property taxes, have up to \$4,000 of own money to include (depending on total amount of repair). Funds can be used for: a new roof, painting/siding, porch repair or rebuilding, new windows. Funds are limited. No income restrictions. Questions or want to learn more?

Please Contact Kris Harsh at (216) 961-9073 x208.

MUSIC

YMUSIC provides a relaxed interactive learning environment for young adults and teens ages 13-21 who want to expand their musical education, explore different aspects of the music industry and network with likeminded musicians and peers. Artists are selected by a peer panel of musicians, music critics and other professionals. Selections will be based upon the materials submitted with the application, past performances, and a live call back. Application submission requirements include a 350 word essay on how music influences your life and how you may benefit from the YMusic Program. If you have no current materials posted, you may still be selected for a call back by submitting your essay and a sound clip sample. For more information, email ymusicnow@hotmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/YMusicfund or <http://youtu.be/tl8Jbbfm7tg>. Habla español Arlene 216/941-9262. Due date February 5.

NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE

NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS offers small grants to groups of residents in Cleveland and East Cleveland to do projects that improve the quality of life in their communities. Grants range from \$500 to \$5,000. Grants are intended to spur small, grassroots community projects. Grants may be used for a wide variety of activities and projects, and groups are encouraged to think in new ways about what will work in their communities. The upcoming grant deadline is 5 pm on Friday, February 12, 2016. Additional funding available for arts and cultural projects thanks to the support of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. To apply for funding logon to: <http://www.neighborhoodgrants.org/category/ways-to-connect/how-to-apply/>

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) is used to determine the amount of money that a family is expected to contribute for post-secondary education. Federal and state grants, work study programs and loan amounts are calculated based on the Expected Family Contribution. Log onto www.fafsa.ed.gov for more information.

SKILL SHARING

THE CLEVELAND TIMEBANK SKILLSHARES are designed as a way to share your knowledge, talents, skills, and expertise with the local community. Skillshares are workshops that are led by you and other people in the community about knowledge that different people want to share. Contact the Cleveland TimeBank Coordinators to start planning the place, date and other details of your skillshare. Email lzeck@dscdo.org or call 216/961-9073 Ext. 204.

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Do you have a great idea to improve your neighborhood? Apply for a grant!



Neighborhood Connections invests in resident-led projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland with grants of up to \$5,000. Application deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, February 12. Attend an upcoming workshop to learn more and get tips about how to apply. You don't have to move to live in a better neighborhood! Details at www.neighborhoodgrants.org or call **216-361-0042**.



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Protest highlights restrictions on free speech at Cleveland City Hall

by Chuck Hoven

On December 7th about 40 protesters from The Committee for Social Justice and other civil rights groups gathered on the steps of Cleveland City Hall, prior to the evening City Council Meeting, to protest the "Cleveland Atrocity", the involvement of 13 Cleveland Police Officers in firing the 137 gun shots that killed unarmed Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell on November 29, 2012. The protesters called on Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and Safety Director Michael McGrath to fire all 13 Police Officers involved in the shooting. The demonstrators chanted slogans like, "No Justice, No Peace" and called for "No more thugs in police uniforms."

NEWS ANALYSIS

When it came time for the City Council Meeting, the group of about 40 began to prepare to enter City Hall. Group leaders informed protesters that no signs were allowed in City Hall, so they would have to leave their signs outside. Individuals with signs made arrangements with others to house the signs in vehicles or somewhere outside until the meeting was over.

Protesters were also informed that they would need an identification card to get into City Hall. One young protester told his two friends attending the protest that he had left his identification card at

home. All three decided to leave together, rather than separate.

For those entering Cleveland City Hall, as is the custom in recent years, all had to produce identification and police officers at the door wrote down their names from their identification cards before they went through a metal detector on their way into Cleveland City Hall.

At the door, Community Activist Don Bryant was prohibited from entering City Hall by Cleveland Police saying his "Cleveland Atrocity" T-Shirt was in violation of City Council rules prohibiting signs at its meetings. Several other protesters had T-shirts with writing on them indicating their views, yet were let to pass into City Hall.

When protesters reached the 2nd Floor City Council Chamber they were greeted by a sign outside the Council Chambers that said: "Signs, posters, placards and similar items are strictly prohibited in the Council Chambers."

Well into the meeting, Councilman Kevin Conwell, per an earlier agreement with the group, read a statement into the record from the Committee for Social Justice and other groups present. The statement called on Mayor Frank Jackson to fire all 13 Cleveland Police officers involved in firing the 137 shots that resulted in the death of Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell on November 29, 2012.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Thursday, December 17, 2015; Tombstone Tavern, 2240 Fuiton Road: The Tombstone Tavern, on Fulton Road, just north of the Willet Street Cemetery, became a victim of arson in early December. Anyone with any information about the arson, please call Crime Stoppers at 216-252-7463. Crime Stoppers offers a reward of up to \$2,000 for a tip that leads to the arrest and indictment of a suspected arsonist.

Without their signs, without some of their members who left because of barriers to entrance to City Hall, the group received no other recognition other than the reading of their statement by Councilman Conwell. The television cameras panning the crowd instead focused on an ordinance by Councilman

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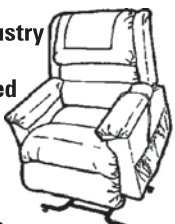
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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, December 5, 2015; Short & Sweet Holiday Shop at Art House, 3119 Denison Avenue: Pauline Clark sells eight varieties of her home made chocolate candies at the Short and Sweet Holiday Shop. Clark has been a regular at the annual event at Art House since it started four years ago.

PROTEST

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Joe Cimperman restricting the sale of flavored tobacco in certain types of retail outlets, and to a complaint by Councilman Matt Zone about a circular from the Plain Dealer called *Shop Cleveland* that residents complained was littering the streets of Cleveland.

Cleveland City Council does not offer a public forum at its meetings for people to address comments or questions to Cleveland City Council members, so

protesters had no other means to voice their concerns that evening. Even if they had gone to a City Council daytime committee meeting, getting on the agenda involves getting the permission of the Committee Chair.

Asked about the signs outside the City Council Chambers, prohibiting signs in the Council Chambers, Ward 14 Councilman Brian Cummins noted that court cases have offered "time, place and manner" exceptions to first amendment free speech requirements. However, he said, "There are definitely issues of freedom of speech in City Council. Especially in the times we live in, there needs to be more freedom of

Clevelanders show support for meaningful climate action at Paris talks

Over fifty Clevelanders gathered in front of Market Plaza at W. 25th and Lorain on November 28th to show their support for meaningful climate action as world leaders gathered in Paris for the United

Nations Conference of Parties Talks on Climate. Clevelanders displayed signs to passing cars in a rally that organizer Randy Cunningham called the largest Global Climate

March Solidarity Rally in the State of Ohio. Cleveland Environmental Action Network and the Northeast Ohio Sierra Club sponsored the solidarity rally.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, December 5, 2015; Short & Sweet Holiday Shop at Art House, 3119 Denison Avenue: Aaron Hersko of Aaron's Exquisite Glass with some of his artwork. Hersko is selling his hand painted glass gifts in the Holiday Shop for the second year in a row.

speech, not less."

Perhaps Cleveland City Council can address some of the issues that inhibit public participation in their government this year. While visitors to City Hall all during the day are carded at the door, it seems very like being in a totalitarian state rather than a democracy when protesters protesting the police killing of civilians have to have their names written down by a police officer when entering City Hall.

Without a real threat, it would seem that City Council and the Administration are over reacting by having armed guards at the doors and lining the back

of the City Council Chambers during a public meeting. After all, Clevelanders attend public meetings throughout the city and engage in civil discourse without the benefit of armed guards and metal detectors. Headlines are not blaring about violent incidents at these meetings.

Another step City Council could take is to assure that public records are immediately given to member of the public requesting them, rather than getting sent to the law department for review. It would seem that there would be very few exceptions that would need such a time consuming review that often makes the document requested outdated by the time it is received. To make the practice routine is a slap in the face to the Ohio Sunshine Law.

Also the City Council should open up the floor for citizens to speak and ask questions in both City Council meetings


and committee meetings. Citizens should know how their money is being spent and all citizens should have the same access to discuss the expenditures of funds that is given to developers and billionaire sports team owners. Those involved in a particular issue, or who have inquired about an issue in the past, should be invited by City Council staff to attend meetings to ask questions and express concerns when the issue is brought before a committee.

Cleveland is likely to be in the international spotlight as it hosts the Republican Convention this summer. Let us show the world that we have an open and flourishing participatory democracy. Yes, democracy may be messy, and may take more time, but citizens participating in their government will help to create a better society where citizens feel they have input into the distribution of resources and the making of the rules by which they are governed.

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CLEVELAND COMMUNITY POLICE COMMISSION

continued from page one

the CCPC had done to create a draft of Revised City Charter Provisions Regarding the Office of Professional Standards (OPS) and the Police Review Board (PRB). As documented in the minutes of the CCPC, the Commission was doing due diligence to meet its mandate under the Cleveland Consent Decree "to review, assess, and ultimately provide recommended changes for the Police Review Board (PRB) and the Office of Professional Standards (OPS) in the City Charter." Indeed,

the Committee, and a Working Group it set up, did a great deal of research on best practices in other cities, solicited public comment from individuals and other groups, held public meetings and prepared a draft of its proposed changes to post online and publish in its minutes for public review.

Williams noted that all the while the Commission kept City of Cleveland Law Director Barbara Langhenry apprised of their efforts. Despite that, the City of Cleveland prepared its own Charter Amendment recommendations without waiting

for the input of the CCPC. The City of Cleveland submitted its Charter Recommendations to Cleveland City Council and City Council introduced and passed legislation on December 7th to place the charter revisions on the March 2016 ballot.

Williams said that the CCPC then went to the Monitoring Group to ask them to intervene and get a reset "so we will have an opportunity to provide input."

Committee Co-Chair Mario Clopton said the reset should offer more time for community input. "I am looking forward to have time to understand completely what we are recommending."

Williams noted that the committee offers a questionnaire online along with its draft of the Revised City Charter Provisions so the public can make additional comments online. She also hopes the Monitoring Team can facilitate a meeting to review its draft proposal as planned with the City of Cleveland Administration, City Council, and the Monitoring Team – to come up with a final document for City Council to vote to place on the ballot.

There was some discussion as to whether all this could be done by a January 16, 2016 deadline to place an issue on the March 2016 ballot, or if it would be better to allow more time and submit the issue for the November 2016 ballot. A number of Commission members said they would rather have the issue on the General Election Ballot than the Primary Ballot.

However, Williams said it was not yet clear what the "reset" they requested the Monitoring Team to pursue, means in light of the legislation already passed by Cleveland City Council. She wondered whether or not it will mean there will be a "resending, or retraction" of the legislation, or if they will proceed with the March ballot issue. Williams said the commission was pursuing, figuring



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Saturday, December 5, 2015; Winterfest at Jefferson Park, W. 132nd & Lorain Avenue: Mrs. Claus (Valerie Addy of Friends of Jefferson Park) passes out candy canes donated by B.A. Sweeties Candy Company.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, December 12, 2015; Holidays in Gordon Square, W. 65-W. 67th and Detroit Avenue: Madison Avenue residents Nick Giordano and his daughters Nickalina Giordano, age 8, and Amanda Spence find their seats on the free horse drawn carriage provided by Carriage Limousine Service. Nickalina especially enjoyed the carriage rides and urged her dad and sister to take multiple trips around the block on the carriage.

out, and getting "concrete answers as to what it (the reset) means."

Committee member Lee Fisher defended the Administration and City Council saying in his view and what he knows of the legislative process, the City Law Department submitted the proposed ordinance to Cleveland City Council. Council introduced it and passed it moving it forward to a March deadline. He called the lack of inclusion of the CCPC's input, an "innocent miscommunication." Fisher said, "Moving forward towards the March deadline, there is no reason to believe they are not going to be working with us on this."

Williams said while she could not speak to the intent of the City Administration and the City Council, she knows that the City of Cleveland Law Director knew the CCPC recommendations were in the works. She cited several dates

in late November of contacts made with the Law Department. She said at no point did the City of Cleveland inform the Committee it was ready to submit legislation to City Council. She also noted a presentation by the committee was planned for December 9th before the Public Safety Committee of Cleveland City Council, two days after Cleveland City Council introduced and passed the legislation on December 7th, 2016. Williams said whether or not the actions of the City Administration and City Council represent a violation of the consent decree is a question she will leave for the Monitoring Team to address.

Editor's Note: For more information about the Cleveland Community Police Commission and its work visit its website at: www.clevelandcpc.org.

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, December 12, 2015; Saigon Plaza Holiday Market, 5400 Detroit Avenue: A statue of the Buddha is among the many items sold at the market.

RTA PROPOSAL

continued from page one

was already a transportation desert with the loss of bus service on Franklin and Madison Avenues. She said, "We do not need to lose W. 65th too."

Dean Van Farowe, pastor of Calvary Reformed Church at 1918 W. 65th Street, said that a number of members

of Calvary Reformed Church take the bus from Parma or Parma Heights to the church. He noted that the walk from Calvary Reformed Church down W. 65th to Clark would be over a half mile. He noted that people from the neighborhood going to Cuyahoga Community College's western campus would also have no great north-south connection. "It is not a good decision from where we sit," said

January Online Edition of the Plain Press offers readers additional neighborhood news (available after January 1, 2016):

Forum seeks to shape vision for La Villa Hispana

Over 60 people filled the conference room in the basement of the bank building at W. 25th and Clark Avenue on December 1, 2015 to attend the La Villa Hispana Community Forum. They came to discuss the wants and needs of residents of La Villa Hispana for which the intersection of W. 25th and Clark represents the epicenter. The area represents the densest Hispanic enclave in the State of Ohio and one of the most impoverished areas on the West Side of Cleveland. Read more online at: www.plainpress.org

Westown and Ohio City projects awarded Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits

Developers planning the rehabilitation of the Variety Theatre, the Heyse Apartments, and the Forest City Bank and Seymour Block were among the winners in a statewide competition for Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits. Read more online at: www.plainpress.org

West 73rd Street Extension opens new route to Edgewater Park

A ribbon cutting ceremony on December 12th marked the opening of the new W. 73rd Extension to Edgewater Park. The \$24 million Extension extends West 73rd Street from Father Frascati Drive northward under the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks and along the Shoreway to connect with existing access to Edgewater Park. Work on the Extension began in July 2013. Read more online at: www.plainpress.org

Reverend Van Farowe of the proposed route change.

A resident of W. 65th and Detroit said she depended on the #45 bus to go to Cuyahoga Community College's western campus and to go to shopping areas.

Megan Meister, Director of Community Engagement at Neighborhood Family Practice said two of the Neighborhood Family Practice clinics would be affected by the proposed RTA route change. She noted that many of the patients served by Neighborhood Family Practice are Medicaid recipients and many are dependent on public transportation. Meister said that refugee patients, patients with difficulty walking, behavioral health patients and those with chronic disease would have decreased access to services because of the bus route changes. Meister called for increasing bus service in the neighborhood.

A woman, who volunteers at H. Barbara Booker as a tutor, says she now takes the #45 bus from Clark to Lorain Avenue. She expressed safety concerns about walking over the bridge over I-90. She said she also uses the 45 to go to the Neighborhood Family Practice on W. 65th and Franklin.

A man who rides the #45 from Parma to work on third shift at downtown, says on his return trips from 7-9 a.m. the #45 is full almost every day. He testified that there are a lot of students going to Cuyahoga Community College's western campus that are using the #45. He said that on his ride to and from downtown,

the #45 is being used. He said one drawback of using the #45 is the bus only comes once an hour, "If you don't catch it, you are in trouble."

Another #45 bus rider noted the number of Cuyahoga Community College students riding the bus and said the buses were not offered frequently enough and the maintenance of the buses was substandard. She said she had difficulty walking and if she had to walk to Max Hayes from the rapid, there would be no way for her to have come to the meeting this evening. She urged RTA, "Don't make eliminations, but make increases."

A woman, who lives at W. 32nd and Franklin, said she depends on the #45 bus to go to the eye doctor at the Ridge Road Shopping Center. She said she also rides the bus to Parma and Cuyahoga Community College and sees a full bus. She said she would be disappointed if the current #45 route were eliminated. She suggested that instead the #21 route be extended to go down Ridge Road to Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus.

A resident of the area north of Lorain on W. 65th said the #45 was the nearest bus and the best route to travel south to Brooklyn, Parma and Cuyahoga Community College.

Ward 3 Councilman Joe Cimperman said that Clark Avenue residents would like the added services that would result from the route change. He said that, currently, the #21 bus on Clark was not

getting a lot of riders because the route is short – it ends at the Denison Loop and it is available only on weekdays. He said Clark Avenue riders would like the additional weekend and evening service. He said the realigned #45 would benefit both Clark Avenue and W. 73rd and result in a longer route with seven day a week service. As for the corner of W. 65th and Clark, he said the #45 would continue to serve the corner, only from Clark, rather than from W. 65th.

A rider of the #26 bus on Detroit Avenue expressed concern that the already overcrowded #26 would become even more crowded if the #45 stopped coming down Detroit from W. 25th to W. 65th.

RTA officials noted the number of east/west bus routes that cross W. 65th Street as well as walking access to W. 65th from the W. 65th Rapid Station. They cited short walks from Lorain or Detroit, or Clark and W. 65th to many locations on W. 65th. They also noted that a number of buses also cross Clark Avenue where riders could transfer to the new #45. They said while transferring may be an inconvenience, the trips still could be made to and from destinations on W. 65th if allowing for a short walk.

Ward 14 Councilman Brian Cummins noting the dominance of comments concerning loss of service on W. 65th at the late afternoon meeting, said he expected supporters of the Clark Avenue increases in bus service to be in attendance at the evening meeting.

WRAPAROUND

continued from page one

and the lead agencies that work with them are: Almira Pre-K-8 Academy with Cleveland Play House as the lead agency; H. Barbara Booker School with the West Side Community House as the lead agency; Lincoln West High School and Luis Muñoz Marin School with Esperanza as the lead agency; and Walton School with Cleveland State University as the lead agency.

Dr. Irene Javier, Principal at Lincoln West High School, and one of the panelists, said she focuses on Lincoln West as a place to celebrate the accomplishments of students. She said, when deciding what wraparound is going

to look like in the school building, it is not only important to look at the children and see their needs, but also to look at the experiences and assets the students bring to the school. She noted that, in each of the last three years, Lincoln West has improved its attendance from 78% average daily attendance, two years ago, to 83% last year and to 91% average daily attendance this year. She admitted that the good weather this year has really helped with attendance.

Dr. Javier also cited other factors that help keep students engaged in at Lincoln West High School. She said students "feel loved. They are told you are welcome. You are going to be successful. Someone will care for you – a variety of services are available."

Dr. Javier said there has also been

a 300% decrease in serious incidents that result in suspensions and students losing learning time as a result of suspension. She attributes this to identifying kids with needs and providing them services through various tiers of interventions that begin with a support team formed in the second week of the school year.

Dr. Javier noted that groups involved in the school, such as Friends of Lincoln West, have been focused on finding and providing services that are good for the children.

Pamela DiPasquale, Education Director at the Cleveland Play House, talked about her institution's involvement as the lead agency at Almira School. She said the Play House began by focusing on parent engagement. Initially, an average of only four parents were attending meetings and events at the school. By surveying parents, the Play House learned that parents were not getting information about events at the school. They asked parents how they preferred to receive information and parents responded by saying they preferred to receive a post card in the mail. With the new method of delivering information to parent via the U.S. Mail – attendance at events at the school increased to an average of 300 parents per event.

The Play House also engaged parents in making use of services at the school. DiPasquale said a computer lab was made available at the school for parents on Saturdays so parents can use the computers at the school not only to assist with their child's education but also to improve their own education as well. DiPasquale said many of the parents at Almira School have less than a 9th grade education and wanted to pursue getting a GED or use the computer access for other family needs.

Cleveland Metropolitan School District CEO Eric Gordon said wonderful work was being done using the wraparound strategy to help improve some of the lowest performing schools in the district. He called on using examples of success in different schools to continue to scaffold the model.

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Bike Giveaway provides incentive to help boost attendance in Cleveland schools

At two Bike Giveaway ceremonies held on December 17th, two hundred and seven Cleveland Metropolitan School District students received a bicycle as a reward for improving their attendance from last school year to this school year. Herb Washington, a McDonald's Owner/Operator, organized the McMiracle with H.L.W. Fast Track Bike Giveaway. H.W. L Fast Track is the name given by Washington, a track and field star, to his McDonald franchise, which has 23 McDonald's restaurants, the largest McDonald's franchise owned by an African American.

"It is my expectation to double the number of helmets and bikes for next year."

---- Herb Washington

Inspired by a similar McMiracle program started in Indianapolis twenty years ago, Washington's partnership with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District offers a great incentive for middle school students to improve their attendance record this school year when compared to last school year. Over 1,500 students qualified by improving their attendance this year and drawings were held to pick one 6th, 7th and 8th grade student from each K-8 school in the district to receive a bike.

At the second bike giveaway of the day held at Paul L. Dunbar at W. 28th and Chatham in the Ohio City neighborhood, Washington stressed the importance of education in his life and his belief in the importance of getting kids to school. He told the crowd, assembled in the gym, "It is my expectation to double the number of helmets and bikes for next year."

Washington thanked a number of businesses for their donations

toward purchase of the bikes, thanked students for their efforts to get to school and said he was especially proud of parents for their role in getting students to school. He noted his own childhood in Flint Michigan, which he termed "a tough city." He noted the difficulties parents can face, but encouraged parents saying, "You can be successful."

Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon thanked Washington for the gifts for children, which were being used by the district as leverage to help with the "Get 2 School, You can make it" campaign. Gordon said that when you look at the academic achievement and attendance, academic achievement "always comes down to attendance." He said students who miss less than ten days of school a year are 9% more likely to pass the third grade reading test. He noted that students that missed fewer than 10 days of school per year also performed substantially better on both math and reading tests than students who have missed 10 or more days.

Gordon said the goal set by the CMSD was to have 10% fewer kids miss 10 or more days of school this year. In the first quarter of this year, the school district had 1,117 more children on track to miss fewer than 10 days of school this year than at the same time last year. He said that was 9.99% better than last school year – just short of the goal for the year. However, he said that the second quarter stats are looking good with just a few days left in the quarter he said the district is "on track to beat the 10% mark."

Gordon thanked Washington on behalf of the school district for the bikes, helmets and gift certificates to McDonalds that were helping to keep students on track to better attendance. Gordon also thanked the Ohio City Bicycle Coop for offering each new bicycle owner a free bicycle safety lesson.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, December 17, 2015; McMiracle with H.L. W. Fast Track Bike Giveaway, Paul Dunbar School Gymnasium, W. 28th and Chatham: Kimberly Rodriguez, a sixth grade student at Scranton Elementary and her mother Yolanda Arroyo with Kimberly's new bicycle and helmet.

Again stressing the importance of attendance, Gordon praised the teaching staff of the CMSD and sent a message to students saying, "Educators are getting the job done teaching our kids, but they can't teach you, if you are not here."

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COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

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SCFBC ANNUAL MEETING

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- 86% of 3rd graders passed the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee
- Increased number of students in mid- to high-performing seats by 19%
- Eliminated 10 failing schools by closing or replacing them with new models
- Hired over 750 new teachers over the last 3 years
- 71% of teachers met or exceeded Ohio’s student learning expectations
- 81% of teachers rated Skilled or Accomplished
- Maintained financial stability for the fourth straight year
- Constructing and renovating more than 40 schools over next 5 years
- 73% of citizens rated CMSD schools as fair or better
- 72% of citizens say CMSD schools are improving

Based on 2014-15 results

National Report Card Academic Gains 2013-2015

- CMSD is one of only 3 districts out of 21 large urban districts that improved in all four areas: 4th and 8th grade reading AND 4th and 8th grade math
- 4th grade reading growth is 2nd highest in the nation
- 4th grade math growth is 3rd highest in the nation
- 8th grade reading growth is 4th highest in the nation
- 8th grade math growth is 5th highest in the nation
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Source: 2015 NAEP results

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—Dr. Michael Casserly
Executive Director
Council of the Great City Schools

