



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Friday, November 21, 2008, Clark Recreation Center, 5706 Clark Avenue: Mya Santiago, age 8, holds up a wooden chest she made at the Clark Recreation Center. Volunteers from the Frontier Pioneer Block Club in the Stockyard neighborhood lead the monthly craft workshop.

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# Plain Press

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR CLEVELAND'S WEST SIDE NEIGHBORHOODS

## City Council hears testimony on Fire Station #21 brownout

by Joe Narkin

Cleveland Fire Chief Paul Stubbs provided testimony before a Cleveland City Council hearing at City Hall on November 17, 2008 that the brownout of Fire Station 21, located at 1801 Carter Road in the Flats neighborhood, would result in no more than a 40-second delay to fires and other emergencies in the area usually served by that station. Members of the Public Safety and City Planning Committees who had called for this special hearing were skeptical of the Chief's response time projection. Approximately 25 concerned residents attended the hearing.

Fire Station 21, which houses Engine 2 and the Fireboat Anthony J. Celebrezze, is being browned out from late fall through early spring whenever fewer than 187 firefighters are available for duty on any given

have not in any way imperiled the safety of the citizens," said Stubbs. "We don't rely on any one fire company for anything," he added.

In response to a question from Ward 13 Councilman Joe Cimperman, chair of the City Planning Committee, Chief Stubbs said the projection for increased response time was based upon historical data and was based upon an analysis conducted last May. When Cimperman suggested the reliability of the May analysis might be called into question due to recent bridge closings and lane restrictions on the Inner Belt Bridge, Stubbs said the Fire Department cannot make staffing or response time projections based upon transitional issues such as bridge closings. "Any of the bridges can be closed at any minute," said Stubbs.

Cimperman noted vehicle travel in the neighborhood is paralyzed

issue" at this time. "It all comes down to funding and dollars," said Ashton, adding that four fire suppression companies have been closed and that there has been a 10% reduction in the number of firefighters since 2004 budget cuts were imposed.

Unlike a Police Department that can issue tickets, the Fire Department does not have a significant revenue generating capacity, but should be looked upon as similar to an insurance policy, said Ashton. "The premiums are tough to pay, but you are glad that you have insurance when it is needed," he said.

Ashton said while the population of Cleveland has been steadily declining, the number of calls to the Cleveland Fire Department have increased from 50,000 in 1993 to 70,000 in 2007, largely due to an aging building stock.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Friday, November 21, 2008, W. 14th Ramp to the Inner Belt: Tremont residents and business owners staged a protest in November to urge the Ohio Department of Transportation to reopen this ramp and present a clearer picture of its plans for the future of the Inner Belt Bridge.



PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN

**Thursday, November 20, 2008, Carter Road and Scranton: Temporarily shuttered Fire Station 21 and permanently closed Carter Road Lift Bridge can be viewed as symbols of desertion and decay in the City of Cleveland.**

day. A brownout is a temporary closing of the station. While Fire Station 21 can respond to fires anywhere in the City of Cleveland, its primary response area includes, Tremont, Ohio City, the Flats, Downtown, and the Warehouse District.

"The larger picture of the fire suppression system that we employ is that it is a system; it is not about where the fire station is physically located," said Stubbs. The area served by Fire Station 21 is "surrounded by other fire stations and is the area most easily accessed by other fire stations," he said.

While a 40-second delay in response time creates a higher level of risk, "it leaves a really manageable risk, a risk that we have managed and can manage," said Stubbs, adding that "we can always pose a worst case scenario that is greater than the system can bear," but a fire department cannot plan based upon such hypothetical situations.

"Fire fighting is a dangerous business and the risk is increased" when Fire Station 21 is closed, "but we

by traffic jams, both on the lane-restricted Inner Belt Bridge and on neighborhood streets due to commuters seeking alternative routes in order to avoid the congested Inner Belt. In light of that, Cimperman said the 40-second increased response time offered by the Fire Department was not believable. "Unless they are using helicopters, I don't know how they are getting there," he said.

Ward 11 Councilman Michael Polensek questioned whether the Fire Department was adequately accounting for citywide impact when a fire engine is taken out of service. "There is a domino effect for the city; it is basic physics that, for every action, there is an equal and positive reaction," said Polensek. Cleveland Director of Public Safety Martin Flask said, "there is a domino effect, but it is a part of the system."

Chester Ashton, President of Cleveland Firefighters Union Local 93 and a 31-year veteran of the Cleveland Fire Department, said that the closing of Fire Station 21 "is more of a community issue than a labor

## Ward 14 Councilman Joe Santiago's concept for an International Village faces skepticism & controversy

by Joe Narkin

Ward 14 Councilman Joe Santiago is convinced that renaming, marketing, and redeveloping the neighborhood as an International Village could best serve the future social and economic vitality of the Clark-Fulton neighborhood. "For many years, the Clark-Fulton neighborhood has not had an identity" and "without a vision and a brand, we are always going to be the poorest neighborhood on the West Side of Cleveland," said Santiago.

Santiago believes the International Village concept has the potential "to make this neighborhood a destination of choice for people who come to this city." This would require the creation of a pedestrian friendly community with open public spaces

and shops and restaurants operating under an international theme.

"If our businesses are strong, our neighborhoods are strong" and there will be a "better quality of life for our residents," said Santiago. One of the greatest challenges he has faced in his first term on council has been to determine "how to better sell this community to business, to live in, to invest in," said Santiago when introducing his concept for an International Village at a Ward 14 Community Forum of St. Rocco's Church on September 22, 2008.

Santiago believes that Clark-Fulton would be a perfect location for an International Village because it offers opportunities for commercial development in a densely populated area that has the most culturally

diverse population in Ohio. There are over 40 different cultures, including 22 Hispanic cultures, living in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood, according to Santiago. He notes the diverse student body Lincoln West High School, where students of many different cultures speak multiple languages, as another indication of the level of diversity in the neighborhood.

The neighborhood contains and is surrounded by major medical, cultural, educational, historical, and recreational attractions. The planned relocation of the Spanish American Committee to International Village will result in redevelopment of the historical H.A. Weber building at West 25th and Clark and act as a

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PHOTO BY JOHN CARTWRIGHT  
Tuesday, November 4, 2008, The 1900 Block of W. 25th Street, Satellite truck for Al Jazeera (The Island), an independent news center based in the Mid Eastern country of Qatar, sent reporter Fadi Mansour to Cleveland to broadcast coverage of the United States presidential election.





**ARTS OPPORTUNITY**  
**MURAL COMPETITION** for artists to create a mural for an 8 ft. x 44 ft. cinder block wall at W.54<sup>th</sup> and Storer at the future home of a community garden. Submissions for consideration for the paid commission are due by Dec. 19 to the Stockyard Redevelopment Organization by PDF, mail, or in person. For application information call 216-961-7687 or email [matt@stockyardredevelopment.org](mailto:matt@stockyardredevelopment.org).

**ENERGY**  
**HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)** expanded eligibility rules allow people with higher incomes to qualify. The interactive 2008 – 2009 Combined Home Energy Assistance Programs application, in both English and Spanish, is available on line at HYPERLINK <http://dsas.cuyahoga-county.us/HEAP.htm>. Applications

are accepted through May 31, 2009. Cuyahoga County residents 60+ and/or disabled adults 18+ who need assistance with the HEAP application process should call the Cuyahoga County Department of Senior & Adult Services HEAP Coordinator at (216) 420-6830.

**EVENTS**  
**CHRISTMAS CAROLING** on Sun., Dec 21: Meet at 5 p.m. at St. Paul's Church, 4427 Franklin, for neighborhood caroling arriving around 7 p.m. for refreshments at Franklin Circle Church, Franklin and Fulton. Van transportation available. For information, email [billmerriman@sbcgloabl.net](mailto:billmerriman@sbcgloabl.net)

**KWANZAA CELEBRATION** will be held on Thurs., Dec. 18 from 7-8 p.m. at the Carnegie South Branch, Cleveland Public Library, Scranton and Clark Avenues. This program for the whole family will feature



PHOTO BY DAN NOLAN  
Sunday, November 9, 2008, Brothers Lounge, 11609 Detroit Avenue: Danny Z of San Antonio poses with the Band of Brothers, the house band. Brothers Lounge hosts a jam session each Sunday night in the newly renovated historic club.

the seven principles of Kwanzaa, stories, music, a craft and light refreshments. Pre-registration is required by calling the Branch at (216) 623-7060.

**FORUM**  
**BRAINSTORMING DISCUSSION** on increasing growing fresh produce in Cleveland neighborhoods will be held on Thurs., Dec. 4 from 6-7:30 p.m. at A.J.Rocco's, 816 Huron Rd. downtown. Come to share ideas,

whether you're a farmer/gardener or not. Rsvp, and suggest specific topics for the discussion, beforehand by contacting Ward 14 Market organizer Josh Klein [[get.on.board.cityfresh@gmail.com](mailto:get.on.board.cityfresh@gmail.com)]  
**REUSING NEIGHBORHOOD VACANT LAND** is the subject of a Neighborhood Connections Community Conversation to be held on Tues., Dec. 9, from 6-8:30 p.m. at 2230 Euclid Avenue, with free

**parking available on Prospect Avenue behind Trinity.)** Free, but seating is limited. Please RSVP to Cynthia Lewis at Neighborhood Connections at 216.393.4642.  
**PUBLIC MEETING on Ordinance 1562-08 re: keeping chickens and bees in the city will be Wed., Dec.3 at 6 p.m. at Franklin Circle Christian Church, 1688 Fulton, hosted by Cleveland Councilman Joe Cimperman, Planning Director Robert Brown, and Morgan Taggart, OSU Extension Service.**

**HEALTH**  
**FREE FLU SHOTS** offered by the Cleveland Dept. of Public Health are available for residents regardless of health-related issues, age, income, or ability to pay on Fridays in December from 8-11 a.m. at McCafferty Health Clinic, 4242 Lorain Ave. For information, call McCafferty at 651-5005. Call for info on flu shots scheduled for other locations: Thur, 12/4/08 from 10 am-noon at Hispanic Senior Center, 7800 Detroit Ave. (631-3599); Sat, 12/13/08 from noon-2 pm at Cogswell Hall, 7200 Franklin (961-1568); and Mon, 12/29/08 from noon-2 pm at Kirby Manor, 11500 Detroit (521-5445).  
**LEAD PAINT HOME TESTING AND REMEDIATION** services are offered for pregnant women and families with preschool children by Cleveland and County Health Depts. Call 216-263-LEAD (5323).

Visit the Plain Press Website at: [www.plainpress.org](http://www.plainpress.org)

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

**Bake Sale Entertainment**

**St. Herman's House of Hospitality**  
**Annual St. Nicholas Day Spaghetti Dinner**  
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**11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**  
**St. Malachi's Parish Hall**  
**2459 Washington Ave., Cleveland, OH**

This is a wonderful afternoon of fellowship, good food, great friends, entertainment, and an opportunity to also help out St. Herman's. All proceeds are used to help pay the December Utility Bills, along with other needs of the Monastery.

**Entertainment:**

**Mud In Yer Eye, (Traditional British Isles): 11:00AM - 1:00 PM**  
**St. Ignatius High School Circus Co.: 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM**  
**McConnell's (Irish Music): 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM**  
**Mike Brady & the Peacemakers, (hammer dulcimers) 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM**  
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2012 W. 25th STE 500  
Cleveland, OH 44113 -4119  
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# Housing Gestapo still on the loose in Tremont

**by Jerleen Justus**  
The Housing Gestapo is still on the loose in Tremont. At a Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC) Housing Committee Meeting on November 13, Merrill Lynch multimillion dollar overseer John Moss and Ohio City Man Ron O’Leary sat elbow to elbow and discussed their plan for the housing code enforcement kick-off to continue in Ward 13.  
The two dapper aristocrats parleyed their scheme that housing inspector Jose Ramos would not be reassigned to this territory based on his failure to muster up in the issuance of housing code citations. The collusion was that the set number of shelters in the line of fire would be six per month. It was further con-

cocted during the powwow, which included Ward 13 Councilman Joe Cimperman, that City of Cleveland Department of Building and Housing employee Ron O’Leary would receive credit for his part in the good cop bad cop plot.  
**COMMENTARY**  
It was reckoned that warning letters would be posted to the elected domiciles and the benevolent humanitarians would bestow a definite interval for the repairs to be completed. Our good neighbor cartel TWDC would be in charge of validating notifications as well as reporting to the scrutinizers. While conceding they were not housing inspectors the dogged pundits declared that at the end of the granted grace period,

those who had not complied would without hesitation fall under criminal prosecution.  
During John Moss’ tyranny against long-time, struggling compatriots, the silk stocking constituent has failed to elucidate that he holds the deed to property once in the possession of Tremont West Development Corp. Cuyahoga County records indicate that TWDC transferred ownership of this parcel to the Famicos Foundation in 1992. December 1993, the non-profit organization in turn inscribed the two-story dwelling to John and Karen Moss for the first-rate sum of \$0 dollars.  
The objective of the Famicos Foundation, founded in 1970, was to serve the most needy families and provide affordable housing for

the impoverished. Conveyance of this plot from the non-profit organization transpired during the chesty “Mossman’s” tenure as Merrill Lynch’s manager of assets in excess of one hundred ten million dollars as well as his serving as a member of the Turner Construction Crew supervising project budgets in the one hundred million dollar range. It is also a matter of record that the well-off blueblood offspring holds title to a single-family West 11th Street manor acquired from the Cleveland Housing Network for a paltry \$20,000.  
The tribunal, having no statutory power, balks at the mention of pauperism. Neither compassion nor empathy for low-income poverty-

stricken inhabitants in this West Side community found it’s way on the code enforcement agenda. Model Block Funds and grants continue to augment the resources of this CDC, which services Wards 13 and 14, however, the notable panel disclosed that the organization was not in the business of providing assistance by way of legal tender.  
In researching the minutes of TWDC Board of Directors Meetings there is no recording of evidence from 2006, to the present, that any monies have been allocated for fixing a roof, replacing a window, purchase or hanging of new gutters, etc., for any down-and-out

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## Councilman Joe Santiago supports Station #21 “brown-out”

**To the Editor:**  
Ward 14 Councilman Joe Santiago has sold out his constituency and also has put the Tremont neighborhood along with the Ohio City, Clark-Fulton, Old Brooklyn, and Flats Oxbow communities at risk for a catastrophic event. I was dismayed to sit through a three-hour Council committee hearing in which I provided testimony on Monday November 17<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Santiago did not say one word to support residents, and business owners in his ward that voiced strong concerns over the closing of Fire Station #21. Santiago sat in the corner read a paper and some other literature, yawned several times and made idle conversation with a few other disinterested colleagues over the impending danger and peril that is facing the near west side communities of Cleveland.

**LETTER**  
Lets face it Mayor Frank Jackson administration’s decision to “brown out” Station #21 really means the station is closed. Station #21 has been open only two days in five weeks as reported by Local 93. Lets get real Mr. Mayor you are playing Russian roulette with my family, my neighbors, and all the patrons of local business owners and their staff. I respect Fire Chief Paul Stubbs, deep down he cares, but his strings are being pulled by political motives.  
Closing Station #21 is bad enough for Tremont, but when fire com-

pany’s based in Ohio City, Clark-Fulton, and Old Brooklyn have to respond within the territory that was covered by fire engine #2, which is a pumper located at Station #21, it leaves those communities high and dry. Lets remember that the Cleveland Fire Department responds to medical emergencies too, “First Responder calls”. I must state that the closure includes the only fireboat on the Cuyahoga River, the firefighters stationed at #21 are cross-trained to handle both apparatuses. This is a disaster, and the City of Cleveland could be sued for negligence if a single life is lost over this closure.  
Insurance rates have already gone up. Just how many lives will be lost over this politically motivated decision? Look for the former Councilman Santiago to land a job in the 2010 Jackson administration.  
Last year I watched a small group of brave Ward 14 electors take on the political might of Cleveland City Council. Santiago’s colleagues spent several months and thou-

sands of dollars to save him. Those few pioneers are vindicated in their actions because Santiago is unfit to continue in his capacity.  
Santiago’s position is both immature and reckless. Again he is ignoring the concerns of his constituency and is being a puppet to the Jackson administration. Santiago is the poster child for council reduction.  
I look forward to the redistricting process that will take place next year to realign ward boundaries. It is quite possible that Ward 14 will disappear. if that’s the case, I look forward to be represented by someone that is competent. If Ward 14 does not change, someone must step up to lead this community in the right direction. if no one will step up to the plate, I will. We cannot sit by and watch what has happened to this community over the past 11 years.  
I may not always agree with Ward 13 Councilman Joe Cimperman, but I must thank him for his sincere efforts in representing the interests of the residents and business owners in the City of Cleveland.  
*Henry P. Senyak*  
*Ward 14 resident*

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**Christmas Eve Vigil Mass**  
5:30 p.m.

*Midnight Mass*  
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8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

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Christmas Day  
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3800 Bridge Ave., Cleveland  
216-631-3423

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2425 West 11 Street, Cleveland, Ohio ☙ 781-8277

**Midnight Mass (12:00)**  
December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Solemn Mass of Christmas Day - 10:30 A.M.**  
December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008



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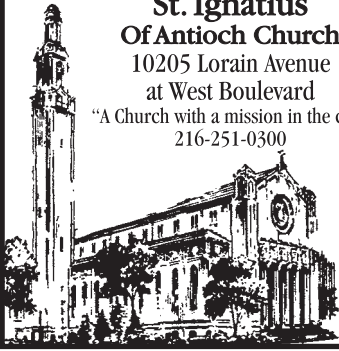
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**CHRISTMAS + 2008**  
Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24

5:00 PM Vigil Mass  
*Candlelight Procession & Children's Choir*

11:30 PM Christmas Concert  
*Richard Gullion, Music Director*

12 AM Midnight Mass  
*Candlelight Procession & Parish Choir  
with String and Woodwind Ensemble  
and Handbell Choir*

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25  
11:00 AM Mass

## St. Malachi — Church —

West 25th & Detroit Ave.  
Cleveland 44113  
**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!**  
• **MASS SCHEDULE** •

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

**DEC. 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:30 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 PM**

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

**JAN. 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**9:30 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 PM**

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**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 p.m. .... English  
11:30 p.m. .... Concert Choir  
(Polish & English)  
12:00 Midnight... Bi-Lingual

Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 a.m. .... Polish  
11:30 a.m. .... English

# Christmas Divine Service

*We Open our Doors to You in Welcome*

Dec. 06, 08 Sat	St. Nicholas Archbishop of Mira, Wonder Worker	10:00 AM
Dec. 07, 08 Sun.	St. Amrose of Milen, Ven.Nilus Stoloben.Mar.Philothos of Thrace	8:00 AM
	ST. NICHOLAS SPAGHETTI DINNER BENEFIT (at St. Malachi Church Hall)	11:00AM - 5:00PM
Dec. 13, 08 Sat.	Repose of ST. HERMAN , Eustratius and Auxentius, Ven. Acaadius - Patron celebration of St. Herman's Monastery	10:00 AM
Dec. 14, 08 Sun.	SUNDAY OF FOREFATHERS- Martyrs Thyreus, Leucis, Collinicus, Philemon, Apollonius & Agianus	8:00 AM
Dec. 21, 08 Sun.	SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY - Juliana & 630 Martyrs, Repose Metropolitan Peter, Martyr Themistocles	8:00 AM
Dec. 24, 09 Wed.	Order of the Great Hours for the Nativity; Nativity Virgil, Martyr Eugenia, Ven. Monk Nicholas	10:00 AM
Dec. 25, 08 Thurs.	Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ - Midnight Divine Liturgy - CHRISTMAS	12:00 PM
Dec. 26, 08 Fri.	Synaxis Holy Theotokos - Second Day Christmas	10:00 AM
Dec. 27, 08 Sat.	First Martyr Stephen	10:00 AM
Dec. 28, 08 Sun.	Sunday after Nativity - 20.000 Martyrs Nicomedia, Ap. Nicanor, Deacon Simeon the Myrrh-Gusher	8:00 AM
Jan. 01, 09 Thurs.	Circumcision of our Lord Jesus Christ, St. Basil the Great: New Year-2009	10:00 AM
Jan. 04, 09 Sun.	Sunday Before Theophany - Synaxis of 70 Apostles, Ven. Theocistus, New Martyr Eutymius	8:00 AM
Jan. 05, 09 Mon.	Order of the Great Hours for Holy Theophany Hieromartyr Theopemptus & Martyr Theonas	10:00 AM
Jan. 06, 09 Tues.	Holy Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ	10:00 AM
	Great Blessing of the WATER at EDGEWATER PARK	2:00 PM
Jan. 07, 09 Wed	Synaxis St. John Baptist	10:00 AM

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
God bless you! God grant you many years!*


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**\* EVENTS \***

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Dec. 7 - Silver Bell Trolley Tour- 6:30 pm  
Reservations necessary  
Dec. 10 ... The Blazing River Freedom Band -  
Christmas Concert - 8:00 pm  
Dec. 14 ... Community Caroling - St. Paul's to  
FCCC - 5:00 - 7:00 pm  
Dec. 18 ... Lake Catholic High School Band -  
Christmas Concert - 7:00 pm  
Dec. 21 ... Christmas Worship - 10:30 am  
Dec. 24 ... Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
- 7:30 pm

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, November 21, 2008, Clark Recreation Center, 5706 Clark Avenue: Youths at the Clark Recreation Center display the wooden chests they made at a craft workshop at the Clark Recreation Center. Volunteers from the Frontier Pioneer Block Club and the W. 56<sup>th</sup> Street Block have joined forces to provide increased programming at the Clark Recreation Center in the Stockyard neighborhood. This craft workshop is one of the new programs offered through a Reach Out and Collaborate program funded by a Neighborhood Connections Grant.

## FIRE STATION # 21

continued from page one

The lack of new recruits since 1991 has created great strains on firefighters and there are currently more firemen over the age of 60 than there are under the age of 30, testified Ashton. Despite an increased workload and an aging staff, union members have reduced sick time to the point where it has a lower absenteeism rate than other departments of public safety within the city. "The sick time situation has certainly improved, but I would not say that we have turned the corner," said Stubbs, adding that, "We are still seeing a pattern of sickness that occurs on weekends." Responding to Ashton's conten-

tion that the winter holiday season, a time when residents living in aging, wood-frame homes utilize space heaters and holiday lights, is the worst time to close a fire station, Stubbs indicated the holiday season is when the fire department experiences the most dramatic manpower shortages due to vacations and sick time, resulting in significant overtime costs even with a station brownout.

A fire emergency is not a time to ask a resident to hold on for additional time and response must be as timely as possible, said Ward 18 Councilman Jay Westbrook. "We cannot say to any neighborhood that they are second class citizens," he said. Reflecting upon the budget crisis of 2004, during which budget cuts for city departments were cut equally under a policy of "shared

## Great Lakes Brewery's Christmas Ale sales signal holiday season on Market Street

by Eric Sever

On Monday November 3, Cleveland's official holiday season was quietly kicking off on Market Street in Ohio City.

Anyone happening down the red brick side street around 10 a.m. would have caught a glimpse of employees from the Great Lakes Brewing Company delivering bright green boxes. On the side of each package was the perennial image of a railroad car full of Christmas ornaments.

This is the signature picture displayed on every box, bottle, and six-pack of the brewer's famed Christmas Ale.

The much-loved beer is "brewed with honey and spiced with ginger and cinnamon" to create a deep amber ale that hints at the flavors

of holiday cookies.

So coveted is this end-of-year favorite that many establishments hoard a keg or two to serve as part of a "Christmas in July" event, satiating local beer lovers until the typical November release.

Using fork lifts and large pallets, the first shipments of this local-brewed tradition were being hauled from the company's microbrewery, just across the street, into their gift shop.

An assembly line of workers hauled the huge batches into the store, preparing for the big unveiling.

Aside from an event at the brewery's restaurant over the weekend, this would be the public's first access to the seasonal ale that many locals look forward to all year long.

## Medicare open enrollment runs to Dec. 31

The open enrollment period for 2009 Medicare coverage runs from now until December 31 and the Ohio Department of Insurance – through its Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) – is urging beneficiaries to call its toll-free hotline or visit a Medicare Check-up Day event for help sorting through the many plan options. Department representatives are also cautioning people to be aware

of predatory sales practices, said Director Mary Jo Hudson.

"This is the time for beneficiaries – whether they are new to Medicare or reviewing their current coverage – to assure they select a plan that best fits their needs," Director Hudson said. "The Department's OSHIIP Medicare experts can help beneficiaries understand the dif-

continued on page 7

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Brenda Lovell, the long time owner of Vanessa's Pizzeria on W. 14<sup>th</sup> in the Tremont neighborhood (1984-2005), is the owner of the newly rehabbed restaurant and lounge at the site of the former Brookside Inn. Lovell and her family purchased the building in 2005 and spent two years and five months renovating building.

Lovell hopes that her many loyal customers, who enjoyed her award winning food at Vanessa's, will now become regulars at Lovellee's Pizzeria. Brenda Lovell would like to invite you along with residents of her new neighborhood to visit her at the spacious and newly remodeled restaurant and lounge.

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# INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE

**continued from page one**  
catalyst for further development, said Santiago.

While a long-term pattern of dis-investments in urban areas and a nationwide economic recession that is projected to last for several years will present critical challenges to the development of International Village, it is far from certain that Santiago has the necessary support within the Ward 14 community to give his plan any chance for success.

Rebecca Kempton helped organize an unsuccessful recall campaign against Santiago during 2007, largely based upon his perceived role in the City of Cleveland's decision to withdraw Community Development and Block Grant (CDGG) funding from the Clark-Metro Development Corporation. A former Clark-Metro board member, Kempton said she resigned from the board because she "wanted to be a little more loud and vocal" in her belief that Santiago "does not show any great love or concern for our community."

"The whole problem with Joe, for one thing, is that he does not know what he wants," said Kempton, expressing the belief that Santiago opposed the Clark Metro Development Corporation because he believed that deposed Ward 14 Councilman Nelson Cintron, with whom he had a highly contentious relationship, controlled the agency. "While there is no love lost for Cintron in the community," the decision to remove CDBG funding from Clark-Metro "was absolutely personal," said Kempton.

Upon election to Cleveland City Council in 2005, "I came in blind; I made some mistakes and I learned from them," said Santiago. But he believes that his opposition to the Clark-Metro Development Corporation was not one of these mistakes and was the right decision to make. "They were on probation with the City for two years and were not meeting the goals and objectives that they had themselves set," said Santiago. Upon audit by the City of Cleveland, the agency was also unable to adequately account for



PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN

## Ward 14 Councilman Joe Santiatgo

\$1 million in CBGD funds received between 2000 and 2003, added Santiago.

"Clark-Metro is not funded by the City of Cleveland because they failed the City —because they failed you," said Santiago at the Ward 14 Community Forum on September 24, 2008.

"When I got involved with them, they had no quorum at board meetings, only 9 enrolled members, no block clubs, and no organization" and they opposed his recommendation that a new vision, new

director, new staffing pattern, and new fiscal controls were required in order to bring the agency into compliance by the city-imposed deadline of June, 2006, said Santiago.

"I was slapped in the face, every time I tried to move it (Clark-Metro) forward, said Santiago. Responding to accusations that he was attempting to stack the Clark-Metro Board of Trustees with his supporters, he asked, "If there is no board, how can I be stacking the board?"

Since the administration of Mayor George Voinovich, CBGD funds have been apportioned between the Cleveland Department of Community Development and City Council. "When the City (Department of Community Development) did not give them money, I would have been an idiot to give them money" from the city council allocation, said Santiago.

While the City of Cleveland no longer provides CBGD funds, Clark-Metro continues to operate under a diminished capacity under Executive Director Maria Davila, currently serving in a volunteer capacity. Explaining her dedication to keep Clark-Metro alive, Davila said, "I want the community to remember that we are here, that our doors have never closed" and "I want something amazing to happen in this community."

"I am happy to work with everybody and I am hoping that the City of Cleveland and Councilman Santiago will be able to recognize our efforts to continue to serve the community as a community development organization and that we will be given a chance," said Davila. "Since we are on the same team, since we have the same objectives, we should be able to work together," she said.

The fact that CDBG funds previously allocated to Clark-Metro have been redistributed to other community development corporations located outside of Ward 14 is also a source of contention for critics of Santiago who see this as a diversion of financial resources to other wards and neighborhoods. In the Ward 14 summer 2008 newsletter, Santiago indicated he would be allocating a total of \$120,000 to Tremont West Community Development Corporation, \$90,000 to Stockyards, and \$55,000 to Ohio City Near West.

Allocations to neighboring community development corporations were made based upon the strengths of each organization, said Santiago. Tremont West was chosen for their expertise in development; Ohio City Near West was chosen for their planning capacity; and, Stockyards was selected based upon their community organizing capabilities, according to Santiago. This arrangement has significantly strengthened service to the Clark-Fulton

community, said the Councilman.

While contracting with other community development corporations was a default situation required by conditions at Clark-Metro, Santiago believes that consolidation of services based upon organizational strengths is the wave of the future for all community development organizations in the City of Cleveland. "We have to come to the realization that CDBG funding is going away," said Santiago, noting that, over the past several years, CDBG ward allocations have declined from \$1 million per year to \$400,000. "Nothing is going to change for at least a year under a new president and, for at least two years, we are stuck," said Santiago.

Santiago's message to community development organizations citywide is that, "If you are dependent upon CBDG funding in 5 years, you may go out of business." He believes that the total number of community organizations in Cleveland will be reduced to 6 in future years and that the survivors will be those who have refined their "fundraising and competitive grant writing capacity" in order to effectively compete for increasingly limited private and public grants.

The West 25<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Strategic Land Use Plan is also a source of contention between the councilman and Santiago's critics in the community. This plan is currently tied up in litigation between Clark-Metro and Arkinetics Architecture and Urban Design over issues relating to payment and ownership.

Believing that the West 25<sup>th</sup> Street Strategic Plan could be of vital importance to the community and provide information pertinent to the planning and development of International Village, Santiago has proposed that the City of Cleveland pay the fee in dispute to Arkinetics in order to allow the Department of Community Development to "adopt the plan for all agencies to use." In a Project Initiation Form submitted to the City, Santiago has designated the Ohio and Erie Canal Association as a grantee in the amount of \$15,607, the amount claimed to be due by Arkinetics.

Clark-Metro declined to approve a resolution proposed by Tim Donovan of the Ohio and Erie Canal Association under which Clark-Metro would relinquish any ownership claim in return for formal recognition in the plan and a copy of the plan with authorization for use. Donovan did not return a phone call requesting comment.

Since Clark-Metro raised approximately \$60,000 for the plan through two local financial institutions and the Ohio and Erie Canal Association and is in litigation regarding whether additional money is due to Arkinetics, Davila believes that the agency should maintain proprietary control of the plan and have a meaningful role as a community development organization in realizing the results. "For somebody to just take it, you just don't do it," said Davila.

Kempton agrees that Clark-Metro should retain ownership control of the plan. "It does not belong to City. The money was found by Clark-Metro. I do not know why he (Santiago) thinks he has a claim to it or a right to negotiate for it," said Kempton. She also suspects that Santiago's attempt to gain control of the plan is an attempt to take credit for an International Village that will prove to be no more than a slight modification of a Hispanic Village concept that will appear in the West 25<sup>th</sup> Street Plan.

Although he has yet to see the contents of the final draft, Santiago believes that the West 25<sup>th</sup> Street Strategic Plan contains valuable background information that will help him make the case for inclusion of the International Village in a forthcoming city-wide development plan.

## Cleveland Citizen Echoes Online

Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, Bill Mason is going after the bad guys in a way that makes Perry Mason look like a file clerk. But the "bad guys" are seldom Mason's colleagues, the politicians. I can imagine, if Perry Mason had a jump start on the FBI, I feel TV viewers would give the fictional character a boost in ratings by watching him go after the bad guy "politician" in today's world of, finger pointing, elected officials. I can even imagine, Perry Mason, as a file clerk in a government law office, slipping some political files marked pending, into the hands of FBI agents. But even file clerks in the real world of today, would think twice before doing career damage to self. Professions can be ruined before they start if expectations are breached. Investors, better known as campaign contributors, expect elected prosecutors to use discretion in choosing whom the "bad guys" are to prosecute, and monitor employees who may have grown up watching Perry Mason chase after the political bad guy.


promise to investigate the alleged wrong doings of Joe Santiago, a councilman in good standing as member of the City Hall Click Club. Maybe some of Mason's advisors suggested the traditional. Just say nothing and hopefully future candidates for Cuyahoga County Prosecutor will have short memories. The Plain (Brent Larkin) Dealer did. In Part one, Biographical Illusions, October 1, 2008, I wrote...

"Here is one for the Plain Dealer. Whatever happened to...Bill Mason's (Cuyahoga County Prosecutor) promise of an investigation into Santiago's alleged wrong doings?"

I guess Larkin didn't want to upset the apple cart with the PD's probable endorsement of Mason for Cuyahoga County Prosecutor. Mason's opponent in the November election was Republican Annette Butler. In keeping with my long standing promise of sending candidates articles of interest, she received via E-mail...

*Continued on the website*

I wonder what investors think of Bill Mason's, slip of the tongue,  
<http://www.clevelandcitizenechoesonline.com/echoes.htm>  
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MEDICARE

continued from page 5

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people with Medicare to be aware of potential predatory sales practices by some insurance agents during open enrollment. Such documented cases include: removing beneficiaries from Original Medicare without their knowledge, enrolling beneficiaries in plans they can't afford and misleading enrollees to believe their physician or hospital accepts their plan. "I urge people to not be pressured into making quick purchase decisions," Director Hudson said. "In addition, we are reminding agents that we will enforce federal marketing and state conduct requirements, including the prohibition against high-pressure tactics and selling unsuitable products."

HOUSING GESTAPO

continued from page 3

homeowner. Yet, on June 19, 2008, Developer Samuel Catania (at that time the President of the Board of Trustees of Tremont West Development Corporation) motioned to use \$10,000 of model block funds, assisting owners of the Flying Monkey and Tremont Lofts, for the acquisition of city land bank lot at 807 Jefferson. Procurement of the track would provide additional parking for the two profit making enterprises even though UGP Properties (Tremont Lofts) recently purchased nine tracts including vacant lots for off street vehicle reservations. Given Councilman Cimperman's long time alliance with Tremont West Development Corp., and it's profuse of community platforms, it would be

reasonable to postulate that Cimperman would be hip to the nub of the Articles of Incorporation that were signed, witnessed, notarized and approved by the Secretary of State on March 13, 1969. The perpetual Charter categorically clarifies the intention of their non-profit pledge and promises. Under purposes, approved document number B606-534, Third section, item (1) reads: *... "to plan and promote, and, if necessary, to coordinate and execute programs in the West Side area aimed at improving the living conditions of it's residents...."* This certificate authenticated the rules that would govern this non-profit corporation and was expressly masterminded for the purpose of kindness, compassion, progress and the betterment of a society that was in need of outstanding leadership.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, November 20, 2008, W. 14<sup>th</sup> and Howard: A recent resolution by Cleveland City Council designated this corner as "Father McNulty and Sister Corita Corner" in honor of the many decades of dedication and service Father Joseph McNulty and Sister Corita Ambro have given to the St. Augustine Community, the Tremont neighborhood and the Greater Cleveland Community.

Assurances and assignments were also made by way of ....*"securing better police protection and police-citizen relations; improving educations; creating jobs; obtaining financial assistance for residence including reasonable credit for the purchase of household goods, clothing and automobiles, and for personal needs, securing increased and improved health facilities, drug care, and information including appropriate birth control programs; obtaining justice, equal rights and equal opportunities for all citizens; and providing other social services and counseling...."*

The caucus was obviously avail-

ing use of police protection when the Long Range Planning Assembly met on November 6, where it was espied that a black and white two manned police cruiser, a strategically placed enforcement officer and the commander played watchdog for the duration of the two hour rap session. Moreover, it was not discussed during the recorded utterances as to who would be footing the tab and disbursement of funds covering this overt operation. It was a question wisely not ask as issues not on the agenda were frowned upon and anyone venturing to take a stab at participating in the guarded gab would come

under the rebuke of TWDC Development Director Sammy Catania. It was a warning well taken by those seated along the wall that speaking out of turn would not be tolerated. However, potentate Catania was remiss in including himself as an *out of order* talker, since the panel was conducted under the Robert's Rules of Order, and co-chairs Dave Pupera and Sandy Smity were both present at the forum. However dogmatic, as those claiming seats at the table continue to maintain their stance, the irrefutable truth is spelled out in the By-Laws that *"the membership is the ultimate authority of Tremont West Development Corporation."*

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20	BEEF PATTIES
5 LBS.	GROUND CHUCK
2½ LBS.	CHICKEN NUGGETS
8	STRIP STEAKS
10 LBS.	CHICKEN LEG ¼
24	EGG ROLLS
20	HASHBROWNS
1 LB.	BACON
2 LBS.	FRENCH TOAST
5 LBS.	PORK CHOPS
6	DELUXE PIZZAS
2 LBS.	POLISH BOYS
3 LBS.	LINK SAUSAGE
5 LBS.	Sliced American Cheese
1 LB.	Corn Beef

**\$130<sup>.00</sup>**



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### BUDGET PLAN

20	BEEF PATTIES
5 LBS.	PORK LOIN CHOPS
2 LBS.	SLICED BACON
3 LBS.	LINK SAUSAGE
2 1/2 LBS.	CHICKEN NUGGETS
5 LBS.	CHICKEN TENDERS
20	HASH BROWNS
6	DELUXE PIZZAS
10 LBS.	LEG 1/4
1 LB.	SLICED CORN BEEF

*All for Only* **\$80<sup>.00</sup>**

### NO PORK PLAN

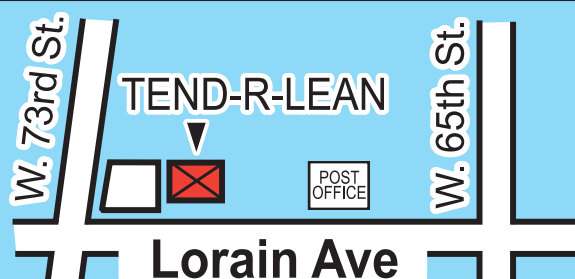
20	BEEF PATTIES
8	Beef Loin Bone-In STRIP STEAKS
5 LBS.	GROUND BEEF CHUCK
5 LBS.	CHICKEN TENDERS
2 1/2 LBS	CHICKEN NUGGETS
10 LBS.	CHICKEN LEGS
20	HASH BROWNS
2 LBS.	FRENCH TOAST
5 LBS.	FRENCH FRIES
1 LB.	BEEF HOT DOGS
1 LB.	SLICED CORN BEEF

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