



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON  
Saturday, September 17, 2016; Tremont Arts and Cultural Festival, Lincoln Park: Tiles painted by community members fill this wall near the gazebo in Lincoln Park. Angelica Pozo, artist in residence in the Tremont Community Artist in Residence program, directed the project funded by the Ohio Arts Council and Neighborhood Connections.

# Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

## Citizens offer input to proposed changes in the Cleveland Police Department's use of force policy

by Chuck Hoven

Over one hundred people gathered at Urban Community School, on September 20<sup>th</sup>, to offer input to proposed changes in the Use of Force Policy from the Cleveland

Police Monitoring Team. Residents were given a handout with a brief summary of current use of force policy and the proposed changes.

After some initial remarks from Matthew Barge of the Cleveland

Police Monitoring Team, residents broke into groups and discussed the policy and then reported their concerns back to the larger group.

Residents generally liked the policy recommendations which included an emphasis on using techniques that will help in de-escalation of conflict and called for "additional restrictions" on when deadly force can be used. The proposed new policy also requires officers to provide medical aid to anyone injured after the use of force. The new policy recommendations also redefine when force can be used saying, "Force must still be objectively reasonable, but also be necessary under the circumstances, and proportional the threat facing the officer."

However, concern was expressed about closing potential loopholes in the policy that might be exploited when the policy goes into practice, improving communication between officers and residents, how to move toward a more nonviolent police force, and how to assure accountability.

One group wondered if there should be a requirement of how long officers are required to attempt de-escalation before force can be used. They asked, "What is in the policy to hold officers accountable to make sure they did everything possible to de-escalate?" The group wanted to make sure officers violating the policy were held accountable.

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON  
Saturday, September 17, 2016; Tremont Arts and Cultural Festival, Lincoln Park: A belly dancer from Troupe Shabaana Cabaret entertains the crowd.

## Poverty growth in Cleveland neighborhoods continues CHILD POVERTY GROWS IN ALL NEIGHBORHOODS SERVED BY PLAIN PRESS

by Chuck Hoven

Despite the many community development projects in Cleveland neighborhoods, the poverty rate in Cleveland was estimated to be higher in 2012 than it was in the year

2000. The 2000 Census listed the poverty rate in Cleveland at 26.27%. A 2012 American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimate of the poverty rate for the City of Cleveland is 34.23%. Cleveland remains the

second poorest big city in the United States (Detroit, Michigan is the poorest).

The poverty rate in Cleveland is especially high among families with

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON  
Saturday, September 17, 2016; Tremont Arts and Cultural Festival, Lincoln Park: The Artist Village was one of the many attractions that drew a crowd to the festival at Lincoln Park.

## Election 2016: Information available to see in advance "What's On the Ballot"

With early voting beginning in Ohio on October 12<sup>th</sup>, area residents may be ready to check out what is on the ballot.

Candidates for president and vice president of the United States are at the top of the ballot this year. There are five sets of presidential and vice presidential candidates on the ballot in Ohio: The Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine; the Republican Candidates Donald J. Trump and Michael R. Pence; the Green Party candidates Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka; Gary Johnson and William Weld; and nonparty candidates Richard Duncan and Ricky Johnson.

Next is the United States Senate race. There are five candidates on the ballot in Ohio: Green Party Candidate Joseph R. DeMare, Republican Rob Portman, Nonparty candidate Scott Rupert, Democrat Ted Strickland, and Nonparty candidate Tom Connors.

If you are in the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District candidates for the Repre-

sentative to Congress are: Democrat Marcy Kaptur and Republican Donald P. Larson. If you are in the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District the candidates are: Democrat Marcia L. Fudge and Republican Beverly A. Goldstein.

On the State of Ohio level voters will be voting for State Representative candidates. If you live in the 10<sup>th</sup> District Democrat Bill Patmon is running unopposed. If you live in the 15<sup>th</sup> District Democrat Nicholas J. Celebrezze is running unopposed. If you live in the 13<sup>th</sup> District Democrat Nickie J. Antonio is running unopposed.

Next on the ballot is Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley. He is also running unopposed.

The next race on the ballot is for a new representative for the 11<sup>th</sup> District of the State Board of Education. Four candidates appear on the ballot: Amy M. Zuren, Meryl Johnson, Bill Bavezzi and Richard continued on page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON  
Saturday, September 17, 2016; Tremont Arts and Cultural Festival, Lincoln Park: Angelica Pozo, artist in residence from the Tremont Community Artist in Residence program, directed a project where Tremont residents painted tiles which now cover a wall by the gazebo in Lincoln Park. Behind Pozo, volunteers Beth Bryan and Barb Kuhns sell painted tiles as coasters to help fund the next project for the group.





PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, September 13, 2016; Rally to Stop the Dakota Access Pipeline, W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue: Fifty Clevelanders joined in a nationwide protest in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Nation, to stop Energy Transfer Partners from building a pipeline carrying fracked oil under the Missouri River and across four states. The Standing Rock Sioux Nation says the route of the pipeline crosses under the Missouri just upstream from sacred land and water of their communities.

**CHILDREN**

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** at the Archwood UCC. Rehearsals will be held every Saturday through December 17<sup>th</sup>: 10:30 am snacks, and 11:amnoon rehearsal. Christmas Concert date to be determined. 2804 Archwood Ave. Choir Director Lindsay Rader. Information: [estherbaruja@gmail.com](mailto:estherbaruja@gmail.com) or cell 312/320-1341

**GET YOUR GAME ON @ YOUR LIBRARY:** Children and teens are invited to play board, computer, and video games. Saturday, October 15 at 1 p.m. at the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, 8216 Lorain Ave. Call 216-623-7011 for more information.

**HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION:** Learn the history of Halloween, bead your own pumpkin, and enter to win our costume contest. Thursday, October 27 at 4:30 p.m. at the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, 8216 Lorain Ave. Call 216-623-7011 for more information.

**CLEVELAND METRO SCHOOLS**

**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.** For parents of children who walk or ride their bicycles to school, CMSD has maps outlining preferred routes. The maps will help children in nearly 70 PreK-8 schools navigate traffic and other hazards. (Find your school's map at <http://clevelandmetroschools.org/Page/8921>.)

**SAFE SCHOOLS HOTLINE – 216/771-7233** -- is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call it when you see or hear something that concerns you about the safety of Cleveland school students.

**STAY INFORMED.** Don't wait for a letter or a flier to find out what's happening at your child's school. Get instant notification on your phone. Parents, update your contact information at your child's school office, complete with your (1) home address, (2) email address, (3) home phone number

and (4) cell phone number so you receive District announcements and emergency alerts. Also, be sure to subscribe to e-Communicator, the CMSD free monthly digital newsletter, by logging onto <http://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/cms/module/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=210>

**ELECTIONS**

**2016 CLEVELAND VOTER FORUM** for youth, parents, families, community stakeholders, educators, service providers, and everyone else are cares about kids! This year's event features youth panelists and local northeastern Ohio candidates. It will be held at the Jerry Sue Thornton Center at 2500 East 22<sup>nd</sup> St. Ford Room, on Wednesday, October 12 from 6 – 8 pm. This is a free event but registration is requested: logon to <http://raiseyourvoiceforkids.org/event/59>.

**FREE CLOTHES AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**

**NEEDS CLEVELAND** is a non-profit 501(C) 3 donation center that provides FREE clothing and household items to those in need. Open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30-2:30 pm. All donations can be made Monday-Thursdays from 9:30 am to 3 pm. If you would like to donate, volunteer or help, contact them at [info@needsccleveland.org](mailto:info@needsccleveland.org). 7710 Lorain Ave., call 216/400-8213 or visit [www.needsccleveland.org](http://www.needsccleveland.org).

**FREE AFTER SCHOOL MEALS** FREE MEALS at Halloran Skating Rink at 3550 West 117<sup>th</sup> St. Monday



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.

through Friday at 4:30 pm. Call 216/664-4187.

**KIDS CAFÉ: FREE** healthy, nutritious bagged meals for kids thanks to a partnership with the Cleveland Food Bank. Monday – Friday, 3-5 p.m. at the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, 8216 Lorain Ave. Call 216-623-7011 for more information.

**HEALTH CARE**

The **Community Health, Wellness and Preventative Care Center** at the Metropolitan Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) has reopened for fall semester. The Care Center provides low-cost health care services to uninsured or underinsured adults while giving Tri-C health career students learning and training opportunities in a clinical setting. The center will be open 2-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, through Nov. 17. It is located in Room 105 of the Health Careers and Sciences building at Metro Campus, 2900 Community College Ave. in Cleveland. The Center is staffed by students studying to be medical assistants, physical therapy assistants, occupational therapy assistants and dietetic technicians. The students work under the supervision of licensed or certified health care providers. Services offered at the center include blood pressure readings; glucose and cholesterol screenings; physical therapy and occupational therapy; physical rehabilitation for daily living; pain management; bone density screenings; nutritional coaching; stress management; and exercise and education programs. No physician referrals are needed. To schedule a visit or to find out about special health-related workshops, call 216-987-3555.

**HEALTH COVERAGE.** Ohio Association of Foodbanks and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), with local organizations, will again this year, educate consumers about affordable health care coverage options and help them enroll in Medicaid coverage or in a Qualified Health Plan through the Marketplace that meets their

needs and their budgets. Consumers looking for more information or to setup an appointment for the upcoming open enrollment period should call 1-800-648-1176 or visit [www.areyoucoveredohio.org](http://www.areyoucoveredohio.org).

**HISPANIC CULTURE**

**CONVENCION HISPANA '16** will be presented by the Hispanic Roundtable on Saturday, October 8 from 8:30 am to 4 pm at Max S. Hayes High School, 2211 West 65<sup>th</sup> Street. A free assembly providing education, empowerment, health and workforce development resources for Northeast Ohio's Latino community. Live music and food, job fair, resource fair with 100+ booths, free health screenings, workshops, raffles and kid's crafts. For more information, visit [HRe3.org](http://HRe3.org), Twitter (@HRe3News), Facebook (/HRe3Comunidad).

**HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH** will be celebrated at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) by screening several films highlighting the best of contemporary Spanish and Latin American cinema. **3 Beauties** (*This scathing satire takes aim at Venezuela's fixation with beauty and its relation to social status. The devious comedy examines a mother's dream of seeing her daughters fulfill her obsession with becoming a beauty pageant queen.*) Showing from 12 to 2 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 14 at the Metropolitan Campus, MTA100. **The Travel Agent** (*The film focuses on a Cuban woman who helps travelers in their quest to gain visas to travel to the United States — a trip she has yet to make despite having family in Florida. Will she ever make the journey?*) Showing from Noon to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 4 at the Metropolitan Campus, MTA100. Metropolitan Campus is located at 2900 Community College Ave. in Cleveland. For information, contact Rebecca Carte at [rebecca.carte@tri-c.edu](mailto:rebecca.carte@tri-c.edu) or 216-987-4587

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**Archwood UCC Fruit & Vegetable sale**

2nd and 4th Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on the front sidewalk (Fellowship Hall if raining)  
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# Tackling poverty is the most effective way to improve performance of students in Cleveland schools

by Chuck Hoven

The End Poverty Now! march was by far the largest demonstration in Cleveland during the Republican National Convention. The marchers brought their message before the national media to draw attention to a critical issue. The message should also be heeded here in Cleveland.

Census bureau data published in this issue of the Plain Press reveals that not only is Cleveland the second poorest big city in the United States of America, but poverty here is getting worse. Even more heart breaking are estimates that half of Cleveland's children are living in households with income below the poverty line.

## COMMENTARY

The dire situation raises the question of what we as a community are willing to do to turn around this situation. Are we willing to make the sacrifices and changes necessary to tackle poverty in our city? Can we change our political agendas to marshal our resources to this cause?

While there has been much talk about the need to improve educational outcomes in Cleveland, the

single most effective way to improve educational outcomes is to reduce poverty. One only has to look at the Report Cards of area school systems to see that evaluations based on state mandated tests don't measure the quality of educators or the quality of what is happening between teachers and students in the classroom, but rather they are measures of the rate of poverty or wealth in school districts.

In other cities around the country that have adopted portfolio school models like the Cleveland Plan, the result is pressure to close or privatize schools that don't perform well on tests. Those schools end up being in the poorest neighborhoods. Depriving poor neighborhoods of their schools is not the answer. Cleveland should take a different tact and work to help as many families as possible obtain higher incomes as means to improving family wellbeing, and the resources available to the schools. Shifting children from one school to another in search of better seats will not work when the real problem is the growing number of children living in poverty. In Greater Cleveland, the school

districts at the bottom of the state rating system are the poorest districts. Cleveland, which received all F's in this go around, has an estimated child poverty rate of over 50%. The three top school districts in the region, Solon, Beachwood and Rocky River all have child poverty rates estimated at less than 8%. (Source 2012 five year ACS estimate via NEO CANDO)

The median household income in Cleveland is estimated at \$27,349. The median household income in Solon, the number one scoring school district in the Cleveland area, is \$79,543. The median income level means half the households in the community make less than that amount and half make more. (Data source: 2010 ACS five-year estimate via NEO CANDO analysis).

In a September 18<sup>th</sup> speech at the Maxine Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren gave the crowd, made up mostly of college students, a lesson in the history of the United States economy. Warren said that from 1790 to 1930 America had a boom and bust economy. For many Americans during that time period whatever wealth they gained during the boom times was lost during the busts, said Warren.

Then came the Great Depression in the 1930s. In response to the

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Sunday, September 18, 2016; Speech by Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren at Roberta Steinbacher Atrium, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University: Senator Elizabeth Warren speaks to a crowd about how coming out of the Great Depression Americans built an economy that works for the majority of Americans only to have that trend reversed in 1980 with the advent of trickle-down economics.

## Clevelanders urged to get involved in police reform

To the editor:

The latest wave of terror, unleashed by the legalized killing of Black people, is re-traumatizing to many in Cleveland.

## LETTER

Amidst this pain, white people are learning better to listen to people of color. As part of that, the group Showing Up for Racial Justice newly created a chapter in Cleveland. We want to encourage people, with us, to tune in to the multi-year Cleveland Police Commission process, which is part of the DOJ-mandated consent decree. It's not just bureaucracy. Lives are at stake.

The public has a voice through the Commission ([www.clecpc.org](http://www.clecpc.org)). The Commission does a good job of listening to the community, and with

research, making recommendations to guide the kind of policing we can trust.

But, it's not easy. Unfortunately, the City Council has not included nationwide best practices in its revision of the Civilian Police Review Board, to reach voters as a charter amendment in November. Many of the Commission recommendations were not included, which leaves our group dissatisfied.

For the consent decree to work, the public has to demand better, and hold accountability for policing reforms. A true Civilian Police Review Board would be funded, free, and forceful. Vote down Issue 33, and replace it with a real alternative.

Malcolm Himschoot  
Cleveland resident

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CMSD parents are more engaged than ever in their children's education. Last school year, 91% of parents and caregivers attended conferences with their children's teachers, up from 73% just two years earlier.

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**Prevention Warriors**  
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The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health has received a new grant to provide comprehensive, LGBT-inclusive sex education. To register visit our website at: <http://lgbtcleveland.org/prevention-warriors.html>

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USE OF FORCE

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They urged "specific, swift actions that would be taken against officers that violate the policy."

Another group liked the emphasis on de-escalation of conflict, but expressed concern when de-escalation is attempted about communication between officers and residents in cases where there is a language barrier.

A recommendation came from one

group for increased training of officers to allow them to be able to better identify when there is a genuine threat. This group also recommended that residents have access to a data base about officers which would give them information on their background such as the languages they speak, their educational background and history of use of force.

Another recommendation from citizens was that police officers learn more about the different cultures they serve showing respect to residents by

attempting to understand their cultural differences. It was suggested that officers carry a cheat sheet with common phrases in Spanish and learn more about youth culture.

Some discussion occurred about helping officers to find a way through counseling or other means so that the previous day's trauma does not affect their current day and how they react to people.

Residents expressed concern about complicit bias against people of color and how to address it during training of police officers. Residents said they would like to see training of officers include them knowing how they would be held accountable for improper use of force. Residents called for more scenario based training that would simulate actual situations officers may encounter on the job.

One group called for officers to be held accountable by an independent body that would review officers' records that had a history of use of excessive force. Residents also called for isolation

of police officers after an incident of use of force so their report on the incident would not be influenced by others. They said initial reporting should be completed prior to the end of their shift.

Residents said they would like police officers to approach each call figuring out how they can make the situation better before they leave. They said they prefer this to a more militarized view of situations. Residents said they would like police officers to hold each other accountable for their actions. They would like police officers to step in when they see another officer's actions are out of line. Residents said they would like to see an end to the blue wall of silence and see the police department get rid of its "bad apples."

It was suggested that police be aware of addresses where the call may involve a conflict with mentally ill person.

Residents said in addition to a responsibility to de-escalate a situation, a responsibility not to escalate a situation should be more prominent in the use of force policy.

Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams spoke to the crowd at the end of the session thanking them for sharing their ideas. He said there was a lot of work to do with communication.

Williams called for a greater understanding in the community of the policies used to govern the actions of police. He said, "There is a lot of misperception about policy and the way police work is done and the realities of doing police work in urban communities."

Williams talked about changes that are already occurring in the police department. Responding to some of the items brought up by residents, Williams said we have been using de-escalation tactics and have had officer wellness programs for the past few years.

Williams invited community members to sit in on community meetings and go on a ride along with police to help residents to "understand what is going on not just from your perspective or the police perspective, but from everyone's perspective."



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, September 10, 2016; NEOCycle 2016, Edgewater Park: A cyclist competes in one of the NEOCycle races. This urban cycling festival featured food, music, competitive races, a track for young riders, and a variety of activities.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, September 10, 2016; NEOCycle 2016, Edgewater Park: The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Booth held a popular event that featured a competition among dogs diving for bones in a pool of water. A crowd gathered to see how far each dog would jump after the bone.

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ELECTION 2016

continued from page one

T. Montgomery II.

There are also a good number of judicial positions on the ballot. Candidates on the ballot for positions on the Ohio Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and a good number of races for positions on the Court of Common Pleas. Many of the judicial candidates are running unopposed. Those in contested races are: Ohio Supreme Court candidates John P. O’ Donnell and Pat Fischer; Ohio Supreme Court candidates Cynthia Rice and Pat DeWine; Common Pleas Court candidates Kelly Ann Gallagher and James Cochran; Common Pleas Court candidates Sherrie Miday and Matthew A. McMonagle; Common Pleas Court candidates Joan Synenberg and Andrea Nelson Moore; Common Pleas Court candidates John Mayer

and Francine Goldberg; Common Pleas Court candidates Tonya R. Jones and Janet Rath Colaluca;

Cleveland has three issues on the ballot: A Municipal income tax increase from 2% to 2.5%; a Charter Amendment proposing changes in the Board that reviews police conduct; and a renewal of a property tax levy that supports the Cleveland Municipal School District.

To view a sample ballot, visit the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections Website at: [www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us](http://www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us) and go to “What’s On My Ballot?”. Follow the prompts to put in your city, ward and precinct.

This site can also be used to update your voter information or to print out a voter registration form. If you are not yet registered to vote, you have until October 11<sup>th</sup> to get your voter registration form into the Cuyahoga Board of Elections. Voters can also register at a number of locations around the neighborhood including: Lincoln West High School, Max Hayes High School, John Marshall High School, Rhodes High School, May

**continued below**



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, September 4, 2016; St. Rocco Parish Procession of the Saints: Following the noon mass, St. Rocco clergy and parishioners carry statues of saints and march down Newark to W. 38<sup>th</sup> and return to the church at 3205 Fulton Road via Hyde Avenue. Pastor Rev. James Mayer created a new position this year “Il Padrone della Festa” to honor a dedicated parish volunteer. The first honoree to be named “Il Padrone della Festa” is parishioner Ducky Sforzo. During the procession, the honoree, Ducky Sforzo, was chauffeured in a red convertible.

ELECTION 2016

continued from above

Dugan Center and the Spanish American Committee.

Several aides are available online to help voters get more information on candidates and issues. For more information on judicial races visit: Judge4Yourself.com.

The League of Women Voters also has a voter guide available at Vote411.org. The guide offers personalized information on your ballot if you enter your address. The sample ballot on the site allows you to compare candidates’ responses to questions asked by the League of Women Voters. For example, under the Ohio Board of Education on the ballot you can compare the responses of candidates running in the 11<sup>th</sup> District which includes most of Cuyahoga County. At press time, two of the four candidates running for State Board of Education, Meryl Johnson and Bill Lavezzi, had filled out responses to the League of Women Voters survey. If you scroll down to the bottom of the page you can also watch a U-tube video of an East Side Candidates Forum with candidates for the 11<sup>th</sup> District Ohio Board of Education.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Monday, September 5, 2016; St. Rocco Parish Festival Greasy Pole Climb, 3205 Fulton Road: A member of “Team Dempsey” celebrates after reaching the top of the greasy pole to win a \$3,000 prize. This year’s prize was especially large because no team reached the top of the pole in the past two contests.

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**CLEVELAND SCHOOLS PROGRESS**

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, September 10, 2016; Hingetown Hoedown, W. 29<sup>th</sup> and Church Avenue: Louise and Gordon Keller, Joe LaRose, Zach Smolko, Dave Rice and Anthony Papaleo of the Oak Island Skunk Jumpers entertain the crowd. The Hingetown Hoedown featured folk, bluegrass and new-grass music, as well as food trucks, Great Lakes beer, art vendors and activities for the whole family.

TACKLING POVERTY

continued from page 3

Great Depression, Warren said the Glass Steagall Act was passed, the Securities and Exchange Commission was created and other measures were taken by the federal government to stem off future financial crisis. She said the United States built the economy out, invested in education, communications, elec-

tricity, roads, bridges. “We all pitched in together to build infrastructure and jobs. We invested in research. We built a great pipeline of ideas,” said Warren.

These actions created an economy that works for the majority of Americans, said Warren. From 1935 to 1980, seventy percent of all new income growth went to 90% of Americans, said Warren. She noted this all changed in 1980 with the advent

of trickle-down economics. The government used its resources to take care of the rich and powerful. They fired the cops on Wall Street, and cut taxes for those at the top. This meant less resources for education, infrastructure and research.

From 1980 to 2016, Warren said of all the new income created in the United States, people in the bottom 90% of the population received less than ½ of 1%. The wealthiest 10% of the people in the country gained nearly 100% of all new wealth created, she said.

Cleveland has suffered more than most cities from this change in direction of the national economy. The city has also contributed to this trend. Local journalist Roldo Bartimole has documented over the years the pattern of using public money and tax breaks for projects that benefit Cleveland’s wealthiest citizens.

It is past time to reverse this trend and use our public resources

to benefit Cleveland’s needy rather than Cleveland’s greedy.

MetroHealth Medical Center’s Chief Executive Officer Dr. Akram Boutros has set an example by raising starting pay at MetroHealth in 2015. At the annual MetroHealth stakeholders meeting in June of this year Boutros said, “Today, no MetroHealth employee earns less than 12 dollars an hour.”

The City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, and other publically funded agencies throughout Cuyahoga County should follow this example and raise the pay of their lowest paid employees. The Cleveland Metropolitan School District, currently in contract negotiations with the Cleveland Teachers’ Union should make every effort to increase the wages of para professionals in the school district to a living wage. These actions will help to reduce poverty in Cleveland and ultimately improve the quality of life for Cleveland’s children. The increased income for

Cleveland families will ultimately show up in improvements in educational attainment by Cleveland children.

On this November’s ballot are two local issues: a renewal of the operating levy for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and a half cent increase in the City of Cleveland payroll tax. While school leaders and city officials are out campaigning for these taxes, citizens should ask them how they will use these resources and realign existing resources to help the poorest citizens in Cleveland.

The 2012 American Community Survey by the United States Census Department estimates there are now 388,144 people living in the City of Cleveland. Of those, 132,144 are living in poverty. Of those living in poverty, 48,221 were estimated to be children under the age of 17. This leaves 84,623 adults for whom a raise in income could help move their households out of poverty. (United States defines poverty as having annual household income of less than \$11,892 for an individual and less than \$23,836 for a family of four.)

Raising the wages of current low paid local government workers and creating new jobs for Clevelanders will not address the poverty of all these households, but will be a start. Radical changes in the way the government entities use public dollars will be needed to maximize the impact of government budgets on alleviating poverty.

The City of Cleveland, for example, has a median household income of \$27,349. Yet its City Council members make more than 2 ½ times that amount and a number of top City of Cleveland Administrators make more than four times that amount. If the city were to freeze wages for all those making more than twice the median income (currently \$54,698), the city could begin to use the funds to increase of the wages of its workers making less than the city’s median income. As people retire, the city could set wage levels lower at the top end of the scale (perhaps limiting salaries of top administrators to three times the median income and city councilmembers to twice the median income.)

This restructuring would have immediate benefits. It would make City Council members and administrators more sensitive to the income of their constituents. It also may change planning and development decisions to help stir city investments toward development that results in higher paying jobs and training residents to acquire the skills to acquire those jobs. It will eventually free up dollars to hire and train more Clevelanders to do necessary jobs like abating lead in Cleveland homes.

It may also make Cleveland City Council more willing to come to the aid of constituents who would like to raise the minimum wage. Instead of complaining that Cleveland would be at a disadvantage if it raises the minimum wage while other nearby communities do not, perhaps City Council and the Administration could help by urging surrounding communities to raise their minimum wages as well. A raise of the minimum wage to \$12 per hour would allow an individual working full time to earn \$24,960 per year. Such a salary would move a family of four just above the federal poverty line.

As pointed out by Senator Warren at Cleveland State University, the problem in the United States is not the lack of increase in the country’s income (Gross Domestic Product). The problem is that only a few are benefiting from that increase in wealth. It is time to change that trend. While the differences between the highest and lowest paid workers in local government pale in comparison to those in private industry, the willingness of government employees to make sacrifices to benefit the entire community will set a good example for private industry when Clevelanders vote to increase the minimum wage next May.

If local governments take action, perhaps the trend will spread to large private industry where the salaries for executives are many times those of the average worker.

According to the AFL-CIO Executive PayWatch “the average Chief Executive Officer in large Ohio companies made \$5,908,773 per year in 2015 – 146 times more money than the average rank and file worker.” The Executive PayWatch website notes that the average production and nonsupervisory Ohio worker at these companies earned approximately \$40,334 per year. A wage, it says, when adjusted for inflation has remained stagnant for fifty years.

**CLEVELAND SCHOOLS PROGRESS**

CMSD graduates are more prepared than ever for college and career. The Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland reports that students have higher grade-point averages and ACT scores, and fewer need to take remedial courses in college.

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POVERTY

continued from page one

children. Estimates from the United States Census indicate that the poverty rate for children in Cleveland has increased dramatically since the 2000 census. The City of Cleveland child poverty rate for children (ages 0-17) in the 2000 Census was 38.97%. The estimate of child poverty in Cleveland by the 2012 ACS indicates the poverty rate for children had risen to 50.81%.

The City of Cleveland's population declined dramatically from 466,301 in 2000 to an estimated 388,144 in 2012. This represents a loss of 78,157 people. During the same time period, the actual number of children in Cleveland living below poverty in Cleveland went down from 50,628 in 2000 to 48,221. These numbers show that while there are fewer children in Cleveland now than there were in 2000, a greater percentage of those children (just over 50%) are living in poverty.

COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

JOB AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY** is a grant funded program at Cuyahoga Community College, providing short-term training in high demand occupations at no-cost to the student. Its precision machining technology and welding programs are two of the most popular programs. It also offers STNA, EMT, Private Security, Culinary, Auto Technology and Information Technology programs. In addition to providing students with program specific training they also provide them with soft-skills training to help develop their employability skills and work ethics. At the end of their training the goal is to connect them to a 100-hour internship opportunity that is paid for by the ATA program, not the employer. Their goal is that if they have a successful internship they will be offered full time employment through the company for which they intern. Contact Mr. Nathaniel Austin, Program Recruitment Coordinator, for details and enrollment: Office: 216-987-0198 or Mobile: 216-659-8837.

**THE CITY OF CLEVELAND** has put its job application process online. You can go to its website: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/cleveland> to see what's available for you, or a job-seeker you may know.

**POLICING AND SAFETY**  
**THE CLEVELAND CONSENT DECREE COMMUNITY MONITORING TEAM** is hosting another public forum to educate and inform citizens about the Department of Justice report, the Consent Decree and the ongoing process of reform policing in the City of Cleveland. Representative of the American Civil Liberties Union will also be on site with important information regarding individual and civil and legal rights. For more information, call 216/623-2921. The event will be held at the Fulton Branch of the Cleveland Public Library at 3545 Fulton Rd. on Thursday, October 13 from 4 to 6 pm.  
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FORUM:** Wednesday, October 26 at 6 p.m. at the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, 8216 Lorain Ave. Call 216-623-7011 for more information.

**ST. MALACHI CENTER**  
A program of support for **FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES OF THOSE INCARCERATED**, has been developed at St. Malachi's. It is called the LEAF Ministry and meets on the second Wednesday of every month at Malachi Center, 2416 Superior Viaduct (just east of the St. Malachi Church grounds). This is a non-denominational gathering of those who share your burden. Meetings are confidential and at no cost to those who participate. For further information, you can call 216-861-5343. Gatherings are planned from 7-8:30 PM. There is parking in front of the Center building and is accessible to those who use a wheelchair or cannot use steps.  
**FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS CELEBRATION**, that is planned by an interfaith group of Near West Side residents and church members, for Tuesday, October

What does the poverty rate look like in neighborhoods served by the Plain Press?

Neighborhood Name	Poverty Rate 2000 Census	Poverty Estimate 2012 ACS
Cleveland	26.27%	34.23%
Bellaire Puritas	14.24%	24.63%
Brooklyn Centre	22.74%	37.15%
Clark-Fulton	33.03%	46.88%
Cudell	30.61%	44.18%
Detroit Shoreway	34.15%	41.81%
Edgewater	15.05%	24.58%
Jefferson	9.73%	21.72%
Ohio City	36.71%	43.35%
Stockyards	33.03%	47.41%
Tremont	38.91%	41.03%
West Boulevard	20.00%	30.57%

While the poverty rate is growing neighborhoods served by the Plain Press, the poverty rate for families with children is also increasing.

Neighborhood Name	Child Poverty Rate 2000 Census	Child Poverty Estimate 2012 ACS
Cleveland	37.97%	50.81%
Bellaire Puritas	21.16%	31.88%
Brooklyn Centre	30.67%	56.46%
Clark-Fulton	44.54%	59.55%
Cudell	44.43%	52.73%
Detroit Shoreway	46.94%	58.03%
Edgewater	25.76%	50.31%
Jefferson	13.14%	34.95%
Ohio City	50.24%	60.99%
Stockyards	46.25%	68.00%
Tremont	56.29%	68.23%
West Boulevard	27.47%	43.67%

**Data Source:** NEO CANDO, (Northeast Ohio Community and Neighborhood Data for Organizing). NEO CANDO IS a free and publicly accessible social and economic data system of the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, a research institute housed at Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences.

**Editor's Note:** U.S. Government's lists the current national poverty rate at 14.5%. The federal poverty line currently is \$11,892 for individuals and \$23,836 for a family of four.

4 from 7-8:30 PM at Urban Community School on Lorain Avenue. Parking is available off W. 50 Street in the school lot or on W. 50 itself. Join us as we explore how the faith community can engage in conversation about the HOT topic of climate change and effectively respond to it. A video will be shown followed by charting our own 'carbon' footprints. Resource materials will also be available. For further information, you can contact the Near West Side Creation Care Team thru St. Malachi, St. Patrick, or St. Paul's Community Church.


**SELF DEFENSE**  
**SELF DEFENSE CLASS:** Thursday, October 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, 8216 Lorain Ave. Call 216-623-7011 for more information.

**SENIORS**  
**A PLACE FOR US.** A new Senior Citizen Building in the Cudell neighborhood will hold its Ribbon Cutting on Friday, December 2, 2016 at noon. Located at the corner of West 116 and Madison across from the Highland Square Rapid Transit Station, the beautiful building contains excellent amenities such as one and two bedroom apartments and community space featuring a clinic, computer room, fitness room, two conference rooms, a resident's lounge, office space and meditation room. There is free resident parking and outside green space. Residents will begin moving in on October 17th. Meanwhile, tours are being offered. Contact Property Manager Joel Bussard at 216/672-5730 to schedule a tour.

**FEAR OF FALLING? A MATTER OF BALANCE** is an award-winning program designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels. Who should attend? Anyone concerned about falls; interested in improving balance, flexibility, and strength; who has fallen in the past; or who has restricted activities because of falling concerns. Sign up for this free 8 week class at the Estabrook Recreation Center at 4125 Fulton Rd. on Fridays from 9 am – 11 am. Classes begin October 7. Space is limited to 15 participants. Or sign up at the Cleveland Department of Aging; contact Katie Gedeon by calling 216/664-4383 or emailing [kgedeon@city.cleveland.oh.us](mailto:kgedeon@city.cleveland.oh.us).

**UTILITIES**  
**UTILITIES RESOURCE FAIR.** Cuyahoga Job and Family Services and the Home Heating and Weatherization Task Force will be hosting a Utilities Resource Fair, at Lakewood United

Methodist Church at 15700 Detroit Ave, Lakewood, on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The free event will provide information and resources to the community, and enable customers to apply for utilities assistance programs such as Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Percentage of Income Program (PIPP Plus) and Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP). Customers can apply for county benefits programs such as Medicaid, Child Care and Food Assistance. There will be free Utilities Assistance Programs



### CLEVELAND SCHOOLS PROGRESS

CMSD's "Get 2 School. You Can Make It!" campaign is helping to reduce chronic absenteeism, a problem that affects schools across the country. Last school year, the number of students who missed 10 or more days decreased by 11%.

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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**NEED ANSWERS TO LANDLORD TENANT QUESTIONS?** Call Cleveland Tenant's Organization's Client Service Center: 216-432-0617.

**Plain Press Website:**  
[www.plainpress.org](http://www.plainpress.org)



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON  
**Saturday, September 17, 2016; Tremont Arts and Cultural Festival, Lincoln Park: Students in the Performance class of Troupe Shabaana Cabaret Belly Dancers. Diane Nagy, a children's librarian during the week, performs with her classmates.**

Training Workshops at noon and 1 pm; the noon workshop is on Prevention Retention Contingency (PRC) and related supports, the 1pm workshop is on Utilities Assistance Programs eg HEAP, etc. Registration is online for the workshops at [www.cjfs.cuyahogacounty.us](http://www.cjfs.cuyahogacounty.us). For information, call 216-987-7010 or visit [www.cjfs.cuyahogacounty.us](http://www.cjfs.cuyahogacounty.us).

**WRITING**  
**Personal Essay and Poetry Writing Workshops at CPL (Free)** Second Saturdays, 10:30 am: Poetry writing at Literature Dept., Cleveland Public Library.

Third Saturdays, 10:30 am: essay writing at Carnegie West branch, 1900 Fulton Rd. Writers of all experience levels welcome. Workshops offer exercises and feedback on participants' work. Please register in advance at [www.litcleveland.org](http://www.litcleveland.org). Sponsored by Literary Cleveland.

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# Like the city it serves, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District is undergoing a renaissance



Under *The Cleveland Plan*, a customized blueprint for sweeping education reform, CMSD has focused intensively on its lowest performing schools while also expanding Advanced Placement and honors courses. Educators are pursuing strategies to propel mid-performing schools from good to great.

The most compelling evidence of progress is a four-year graduation rate that has continued to reach new highs. The rate rose to a record 69.1 percent, a 3-point increase on the District's new state report card.

"The true test for us is whether we are graduating kids," said CEO Eric Gordon. "While we have a long way to go, we are headed in the right direction."

Not only are more students graduating, they are leaving high school better prepared for college and other postsecondary training, according to the Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland.

*The Cleveland Plan* is designed to ensure that every child in the District receives a quality education and that everyone on the payroll is held accountable for results. The Plan has drawn nationwide attention, with even President Obama taking note.

To get students off to a good start, CMSD and private providers have joined forces in PRE4CLE to make high-quality preschool available to as many children as possible.

At higher grades, new school models give every student a chance to find the right fit. And more options are on the way.

The Lincoln-West School of Science & Health and the Lincoln-West School of Global Studies began classes this school year. The School of Science & Health, which holds classes three days a week at the MetroHealth System's main campus, is believed to be the first high school in the country to occupy space inside a hospital.

Community engagement is key to the District's continued success. That begins with parents, and 91 percent showed their commitment by meeting face-to-face with their children's teachers during the 2015-16 school year.

"We have far to go," CEO Gordon said. "But with the continued hard work of all our staff and the public's support, our future is bright."



ClevelandMetroSchools.org

