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Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Ward 15 Councilman Matt Zone elected president of National League of Cities

by Jack Craciun III

On November 19th, 2016, Cleveland Ward 15 Councilman Matt Zone was elected president of the National League of Cities (NLC) at the organization's 2016 City Summit in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Zone, who served as NLC's first vice president in 2016, will lead the nation's largest membership and advocacy organization for city officials.

From reinvigorating his ward's main thoroughfare, Detroit Avenue, into the award winning Gordon Square Arts District and contributing to Cleveland becoming the "America's Hottest City"

(Forbes Magazine October 27, 2016), Councilman Zone's focus is rebuilding Cleveland into a world-class cultural destination city.

His public service accomplishments at home now demand of him to accept the 2017 Presidency of The National League of Cities, and he has just returned from Shanghai China where he was honored as the Keynote Speaker of the China Society of Administrative Reform Forum on "Urban Governance in the Context of New Trends of Urbanization: Challenges and Responses."

Within 60 days after Michael J. and

Mary Zone were married in September of 1944, Michael enlisted in the U.S. Army and left to serve his country overseas in World War II. Captured by the Nazi's during the Battle of the Bulge, he was sent to Bad Orb, one of Germany's worst POW camps. Despite the sub-freezing temperatures, famine and brutalizing conditions, Michael managed to stay alive until the POW's were liberated six months later. His future son-in-law, Former Ohio Lt. Governor Lee Fisher, has written that Michael, who kept a revealing diary of his ordeal, was able to survive when younger, stronger men did not, because "He could see beyond the barbed wire and the cruelty of the guards and could see something that kept him alive. He could see his own future."

Michael J. and Mary Zone's future after World War II included the blessing of nine children, raised in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood on Cleveland's west side where they grew up. They established a neighborhood grocery store, a community newspaper, and travel agency and, in 1960, Michael J. Zone was elected to Cleveland City Council. His legendary service continued until his unexpected death in 1974 from a heart attack attributed to the ravages of his POW experience.

After Councilman Michael J. Zone's death, City Council President George L. Forbes asked Mary Zone to serve the remainder of her husband's term. She agreed, and subsequently was re-elected to three additional terms. She was the first Italian-American woman to serve on Cleveland City Council and the first woman to serve as Council Majority Whip.

On the night of her husband's death, it continued on page 6



Tuesday, November 8, 2016; Lincoln West High School cafeteria, 3202 W. 30th Street, distribution of free fresh produce from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Lincoln West High School students helping to distribute food are: Front Row (L-R): Randy Rivera, Anthony Santiago and Tra'von Williams. Rear (L-R): Cortez Robinson, Dean Piña, Michael Davis, Nick Dottore and Louis Bright. Lincoln West educator and head basketball coach Omar Williams, who is helping to coordinate the effort, says food distribution in December will be on Tuesdays December 6th and December 20th beginning at 2:30 p.m. When picking up food, please bring your own bags and enter the school from the Northwest side of the building by the parking lot.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, November 17, 2016; Holiday Food Demonstration and Tasting, Neighborhood Family Practice Ridge Community Health Center, 3569 Ridge Road: Neighborhood Family Practice Wellness Coordinator Cheryl Sara, RN (Right) prepares a healthy salad with assistance from Neighborhood Family Practice Community Engagement Coordinator Astrid Smith. Sara shared tips and recipes for healthy turkey and side dish preparation in two workshops. Each participant (over 20 people in total) received a free turkey and meat thermometer.

Workshops demonstrate healthy meal preparation

Neighborhood Family Practice (NFP) Wellness Coordinator Cheryl Sara, RN, shared tips and recipes at two classes held at the Neighborhood Family Practice Ridge Road Community Health Center on November 17th. Those in attendance, fifteen people in the first class and about eight in the second, watched as Sara prepared a number of dishes. NFP Community Engagement

Coordinator Astrid Smith and NFP Director of Community Engagement Megan Meister made sure that participants could taste samples of the dishes Sara was preparing, offering ample helpings of the various dishes as they were prepared.

Sara made a pumpkin dip from a can of pumpkin, vanilla pudding mix, and continued on page 8



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

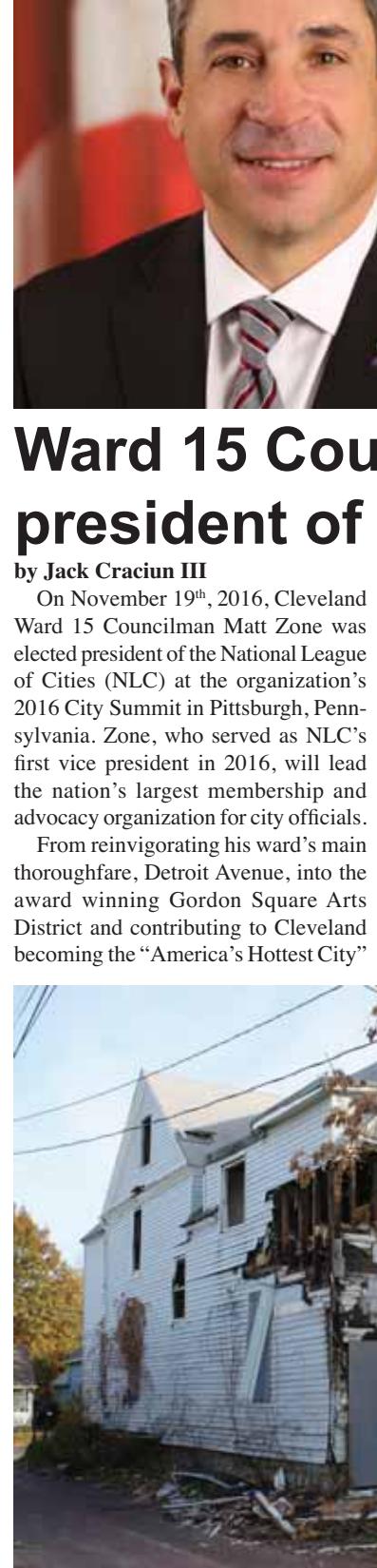


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, November 22, 2016; 3116 W. 54 (W. 54 & Winamac): Residents and business owners in this Stockyard neighborhood would like to see this vacant house either fixed up and occupied, or demolished. A recent fire in the house has heightened concern. The house is very close to Clark School. The house is owned by JM & JM LLC, which purchased the house in March of 2014 for \$7,000. Earlier this year a dump site behind the house was cleaned up by City of Cleveland workers after a resident contacted both Councilman Kerry McCormack and the local development organization (now called Metro West).

West Side Market tenants seek rent reduction

by Chuck Hoven

In a November 17th letter to Cleveland City Council, West Side Market Tenants Association President Vince Bertonaschi requested a 25% rent reduction for tenants at the West Side Market and a two-year moratorium on any additional rent increases. In the letter, Bertonaschi notes the considerable loss of business suffered by tenants due to the sudden unannounced closing of the parking lot behind the West Side Market on April 3, 2016. The letter was accompanied by a petition signed by ninety West Side Market merchants who included their stand numbers along with their signatures. In the letter, Bertonaschi asked that the information be filed in the City Record and read to Cleveland City Council members.

In addition to the petition, Bertonaschi collected sales figures from suppliers to West Side Market tenants showing substantial losses in sales. One supplier, Sherwood Foods, indicated that sales to market merchants were down by \$297,168 for the first ten months of 2016 when compared to the same time period in 2015.

In requesting the rent reduction and two-year moratorium on rent

increases, the letter notes the difficulty in regaining customers once they are lost saying, "Once peoples' habits are changed, it takes time to get them back."

Already reeling from losses due to the employees and customers of large area businesses competing for parking spaces with West Side Market customers, the losses of customers during the city's refurbishing of the parking area compounded the crisis being experienced by the West Side Market tenants. The West Side Market tenants are fighting for their survival as a working market, says Bertonaschi. He reports staff layoffs by merchants, as well as merchants considering changing the type of food they sell as traditional food shopping customers are being crowded out by tourists and people waiting for tables at nearby restaurants and bars.

At a public meeting in October, the City of Cleveland offered an update on its plans for the public parking lots – the lot behind the West Side Market and the lot on the former Hicks School property. Plans, while not finalized, called for one hour of free parking and a \$1 per hour fee after that up to 6 p.m. and a \$2 per

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, November 22, 2016; The Commons at West Village, 8301 Detroit Avenue: Emerald Development and Economic Network's (EDEN Inc's) new 66-unit apartment building will provide permanent supportive housing to both homeless veterans and chronically homeless individuals referred by area agencies.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

SEEDS OF LITERACY is a non-profit organization that provides FREE basic education and GED® preparation to adults in the Cleveland area. Together with students, volunteers, and donors, they are working to break a root cause of poverty: illiteracy. To learn how to register, visit <https://www.seedsofliteracy.org/be-a-student-registration-2/>

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

DESIGN REVIEW VOLUNTEER NEEDED: Nominations are being sought for a volunteer to serve on the city of Cleveland's Far West Region Design Review Committee. Ideally, the chosen individual will reside in the Cudell, Bellaire-Puritas, Jefferson or West Blvd. neighborhood. Nominees should be an architect or other recognized design professional or represent a business or organization within the Far West Region. Nominations may be made to Tom Jordan, Region Planner, at tgordan@city.cleveland.oh.us.

METRO WEST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

needs your help to nominate residents and stakeholders who have gone above and beyond to improve its three neighborhoods (Stockyard, Clark-Fulton & Brooklyn Centre Community). Please review award categories below and descriptions online (<http://files.constantcontact.com/4a59d850101/b5ee86df-427f-4239-b2c7-eb258935bbf4.pdf>). If you know somebody who deserves recognition, please let Metro West know by Friday, December 2nd, 2016. Awards will be presented at Annual Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 26th, 2017. Nominations may be submitted by mail, fax, or email to: Adam Gifford, Director of Community Involvement, 3167 Fulton Rd, Suite 303, Cleveland, OH 44109. Phone: 216-961-9073 ext. 205. Fax: 216-961-9387. Email: agifford@dscdo.org. The award categories are: Housing Improvement Award, Green Thumb Award, Neighborhood

Investment Award, Community Partner Award, Community Spirit Award, and Community Champion Award.

CHILDREN

CARNEGIE WEST SCHOLARS: ROBOTS! Wednesday, December 14 at 4:00 pm at Carnegie West Library in Ohio City (1900 Fulton Rd). In partnership with the Children's Museum of Cleveland, kids will learn about circuits and create their own mini robot with a working fan and motor. Children will then learn about and interact with another kind of robot. For more information, email information@nearwestfamily-network.org

HAWKEN SCHOOL'S EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER in Gordon Square will hold a Parent Open House and Preview on Sunday, December 4 at 1 pm. Presentation at 1:30 pm. Future home of the Early Childhood Center at Saigon Plaza at 5400 Detroit Ave. To RSVP or join the mailing list, visit hawken.edu/GordonSquare or contact the Hawken School Admission Office at 440/423-2950.



The Community Board

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.

CONSENT DECREE

MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE to the Cleveland Police Consent Decree Monitoring Team will host a community meeting at 6 p.m. on December 13 at Urban Community School, 4909 Lorain Avenue, to discuss proposed policies involving the way Cleveland Police officers respond to mental health emergencies.

CLEVELAND POLICE COMMISSION

1. The next Full Commission Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21, 2016 5:30-8:30pm at Fatima Family Center 6600 Lexington Ave. in Hough. 2. Commission Concerns. On November 2, the CPC delivered a letter signed unanimously asking Det. Loomis to voluntarily resign the Commission. The letter cites consistent meeting absences as a notable lack of fulfilling Commissioner Responsibilities as the reason for the request. 3. Use of Force Policy. The new Use of Force Policies are now filed with the Court and the Monitoring team is recommending approval. Thank you to all community members and organizations for providing input and feedback in this process. The documents filed with the Court are attached to this email. For their recommendations and official documents go to the Community Input webpage at clecpc.org.

COMPUTERS

FREE PUBLIC COMPUTER LAB will be held Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm, Wednesdays from 2 pm to 6 pm, and 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 10:00 am to 2 pm. Times and dates may change

without notice. The lab is located at 3167 Fulton Rd., Suite 305. For more information, contact Rebeca Neria at 216/961-9073, ext. 215 or RNeria@dscdo.org.

DONATIONS WANTED

TOOL DRIVE. Donate unused tools laying around the house to the Pilgrim Congregation Church for repairs. Put

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Plain Press

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Christmas Dinner

There will be a delicious Christmas dinner served at St. Augustine Church, 2486 West 14 St., on Christmas day from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. If you are homebound and unable to attend, please call 216-781-5880 and we will make arrangements for a meal to be delivered right to your door. Requests for Christmas Dinner will be taken up until 12 Noon on December 23rd.

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



**Sunday, December 4, 2016
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

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TAX PREPARATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Free tax preparation is the gateway to financial stability and service for thousands of working families. Most low-income families are eligible for a tax refund, which is their largest source of income all year- often one-fourth of their annual income. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is largely responsible for making tax time so crucial.

The EITC is the largest poverty relief program in the country, aimed at helping families with children provide basic needs and save for the future. What's more, free tax preparation increases tax compliance by encouraging families to file their taxes on time and accurately. More than one-fifth of eligible EITC filers do not claim the credit or do so incorrectly. Free tax preparation not only helps with EITC claims and accurate returns but it also provides an entry point for families to become better banked, determine eligibility for and claim public assistance, and receive financial education.

This year, Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization and Metro West Community Development Office will be offering free tax preparation Monday-Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings starting in late January. Anyone can sign up to become a volunteer. There are greeter positions and tax preparation positions available. There is no experience necessary, just attend a Coalition led training to become certified. Sign up today by visiting www.refundohio.org



Cuyahoga EITC Coalition

**METRO WEST
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**



United Way of
Greater Cleveland

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson forgets where he came from

by Roldo Bartimole

Mayor Frank Jackson is soft putty in the hands of the corporate downtown plutocracy.

The mayor, from the most deprived area of the city, has allowed and perpetuated for a decade Cleveland's downtown to become a city within the city—pampered and showered with freebies.

What downtown wants, downtown gets! It has self-determination. It gets what it wants.

COMMENTARY

Concentrated wealth has been allowed concentrated endowment.

The leeches have become a giant tick on the public teat.

Jackson has become the tool of the Greater Cleveland Partnership and the Downtown Cleveland Alliance. They run the city.

Jackson has commissioned two private corporate agents to determine public matters and continued the shower of scarce public funds for their agenda. The public be damned.

I've seen mayors going back to Ralph Locher. None has been as compliant to the wishes of the downtown moguls as Jackson. Even George Voinovich was not as soft on corporate criminals as Jackson has been.

Now, with passage of the city tax increase, as I've said, he's prepared to seek an unprecedented fourth term. The ruling oligarchy will cheer this decision.

The latest move—closing Su-

perior Avenue to public transit is just another Jackson nose thumb to those who need help the most. This time another slap at the needy transit dependent people.

Not to mention the Regional Transit Authority, an agency that could lose millions of dollars when it actually needs public support to resuscitate its funding stream.

"The mayor, from the most deprived area of the city, has allowed and perpetuated for a decade Cleveland's downtown to become a city within the city—pampered and showered with freebies."

----- Roldo Bartimole

The Superior Avenue issue—barring RTA from using buses on a street that separates the new \$50 million Public Square redo—could, according to RTA officials, jeopardize some \$12 million in federal funding. The money was given to RTA for commitments that require the use of Superior Avenue.

If not able to use Superior in the center of downtown and its bus



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, November 19, 2016; St. John's Church, Creative Fusion Spectacular: Dan Moulthrop of the City Club of Cleveland interviews artists Michela Picchi of Berlin Germany and Amber Ford of Cleveland Ohio. Picchi created the tiger mural at W. 28th and Detroit and Amber Ford collaborated with artist Loreto Greve of Santiago Chili on artwork at 3125 Detroit that brings images of nature to Detroit Avenue.

strongly that Jackson would run again.

He also noted Jackson's reluctant rise to power after Lonnie Burten, the former councilman, suffered a

young death.

Quoting Jackson, Larkin wrote: "You don't have many friends in life. You have people you know. Lonnie was a friend. And if he had not died, I would have not been a councilman, let alone a mayor."

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routes, RTA, already suffering public funding cuts and public (city, state and federal) indifference, will suffer further financial damage. More rate hikes for those with public transit needs.

Brent Larkin of the Plain Dealer wrote a piece this week suggesting

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.

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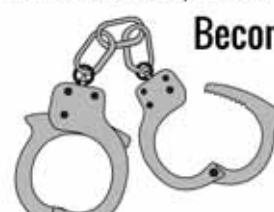
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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, November 19, 2016; 2501 to 2799 Washington Avenue, Creative Fusion Fall 2016 Edition: Creative Fusion, a community engagement artist residency, linked international artists with local artists to create a series of public scale visual art pieces in Hinge Town and along the Detroit Avenue corridor from W. 25th to W. 32nd. Brazilian artist Ananda Nahú collaborated with local artists Gary Williams and Robin Robinson and Cleveland Public Theatre's Brick City Theatre to create an over 500-foot long mural on Washington Avenue across from Lakeview Tower.

Effort underway to keep Fifth Third Bank from closing Ohio City branch

by Chuck Hoven

A petition drive is under way to collect signatures of people who would like to keep the Fifth Third Bank branch at 3500 Lorain Avenue in the neighborhood. Fifth Third bank recently announced it would be closing the branch by the beginning of next year.

Working out of the Organize Ohio office, upstairs from where the bank is located, Charles Bromley is marshalling an effort to keep the bank branch open. Bromley says organizers working out of the Organize Ohio office are collecting signatures of people opposed to the bank closing. They are also surveying bank customers to find out why they use this bank branch. Thus far the biggest reason is location and convenience for both area businesses and residents.

Bromley says if Fifth Third Bank closes the branch, they may be in violation of a recent agreement with the National Community Reinvestment Coalition. In signing the agreement on November 18, 2016,

Fifth Third Bank was widely praised for its commitment to a \$30 billion community development plan for communities where it has branches. Bromley says that prior to the agreement, Fifth Third had been cited by the Federal Reserve for loan discrimination. They received a rating of "Needs to Improve," one of the poorest ratings a bank can receive. He says the agreement with the National Community Reinvestment Coalition will help Fifth Third in an effort to receive a higher rating.

An article in the *Cincinnati Business Courier* by reporter Steve Watkins, titled "Fifth Third gets low rating in Fed review," indicates Fifth Third Bank was cited for "a practice that allowed car dealers to charge higher interest rates to consumer auto loan borrowers on the basis of race and national origin for Fifth Third loans, another involving deceptive practices in marketing debt protection for credit cards and one involving allegations of discrimination on the basis and the receipt of public assistance on page 8

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

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Residents urged to help maintain the historic nature of residential housing in Ohio City

by Chuck Hoven

Ohio City resident Tim Barrett, an architectural historian and historic preservation advocate, made a presentation to the Fulton/Lorain/Bailey Block Club on Saturday, November 19th urging opposition to the zoning changes proposed by the City of Cleveland Planning Department for the Ohio City neighborhood. If implemented, Barrett argued the changes would undermine the work that has been underway for decades to preserve the historic nature of residential housing in the Ohio City neighborhood.

Barrett noted what City of Cleveland proposes would change the zoning in the neighborhood from the current zoning which allows the square footage of a house to be built on a lot to be up to one half of the size of the square footage of the lot. The City of Cleveland Planning Department has proposed changing that to allow the square footage of a house to be up to 100% of the square footage of the lot. Barrett says currently for example on a 4,000 square foot lot, you could now build a 2,000 square foot house without having to apply for a variance. Under the proposed City of Cleveland plan, a 4,000 square foot house could be built on the same lot without the requirement of a variance.

Barrett said a chief historic char-

acteristic of the Ohio City neighborhood is free standing houses with front and back yards. He said while the houses are close together side by side, they typically have green space in the front and back. He said changing the zoning to allow larger houses would eliminate much of that green space.

Barrett and local architect David Ellison showed a number of examples of houses that had received variances from the current code and now take up the entire lot and are generally higher than nearby houses.

Barrett said he feared that developers would push to tear down historic houses to build larger houses on lots in the neighborhood. He said that small workman's houses are just as historic as Franklin Castle. Replacing such houses with town houses with electric gates would greatly alter the historic pattern of housing in the neighborhood. Barrett cited the townhouses on W. 32nd and Clinton, on Rose Court across from Dave's Supermarket, and the ones on Bridge Avenue from W. 54 to W. 58 as examples of housing with no green space of consequence. He called the box houses going up on Duck Island "a poster child of what not to do."

Barrett and Ellison note that developers now need a variance to build houses larger than what the code allows. They were critical of the current city process that allows newly proposed developments to go through Design Review before they apply for a variance at the Board of Zoning Appeals. They said the



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applicants then come to the Board of Zoning Appeals saying their design has already been approved. They suggested that neighbors should have a chance to weigh in first on the request for a variance before the design review happens.

Barrett and Ellison argued for new housing to blend in with what is currently on the street. They said people like back

yards, especially people who want to stay in the neighborhood over the long run. Ellison noted people that plan to move to a place with a yard once they decide to have children.

Barrett said the neighborhood could increase density by building larger apartment buildings along the main thoroughfares such as Lorain Avenue, Detroit Avenue and W. 25th Street.

Several block club members said they thought too many one and two bedroom apartments would just add to people moving to the neighborhood for the bar culture. The residents said they would like to see more housing available for families in the neighborhood. They cited instances where friends wanting to move to Ohio City could not find a suitable house.

One block club member said she thought the big houses were being built because the market demanded them. Barrett and Ellison argued that some of the houses being built in the neighborhood could be modified to be more similar in height and yard space as the surrounding houses. They said when people have children or a dog they will be looking to move to someplace with a yard.

Several block club members suggested one way to limit the size of housing would be to get rid of property tax abatement in the Ohio City neighborhood. They suggested the abatement just allows developers to add to their profits while building larger houses and doesn't result in much saving for the home buyers.



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Saturday, November 19, 2016; W. 28th and Church Avenue (Rear of the Schaeffer Printing Company building, 2817 Detroit Avenue) Creative Fusion Fall 2016 Edition: Cleveland Artist Mike Sobeck painted this mural of a slice of pizza.

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

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Wed., Dec. 14th, 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve:
Carols at 4:00 p.m.
Mass at 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Day:
Masses at
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
New Year's Eve:
Mass at 5:00 p.m.
www.stcolmanparish.org

Join Us This Christmas Season
Archwood United Church of Christ
2800 Archwood Ave, Cleveland
216/351-1060 archwooducc.org
December 24:
6 pm Christmas Celebration
December 25:
11 am Reading of the Nativity story, Sunday Worship

ST. JOHN CANTIUS
CHURCH
906 College Avenue
216-781-9095

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24th
4:00 p.m. English
11:30 p.m. Concert Choir
(Polish & English)
12:00 Midnight... Bi-Lingual

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25th
9:30 a.m. Polish
11:30 a.m. English

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Our Neighborhood
Churches
Welcome You!

Calvary Reformed Church "A King He will be"
1918 W. 65th ST., 44102 | (216) 961-4271
www.calvary-cleveland.com and on Facebook

Christmas Services: 
Dec. 24: "Bring your gifts to Jesus" talent show, 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 25: "A King He will be" 10:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
6928 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, Oh., 44102
Holiday Mass Schedule
Christmas Eve: Children's Mass...5:00 P.M.
Christmas Concert: 11:30 P.M.
Solemn High Mass: 12:00 A.M.
Christmas Day: 8:00 AM, 10:00 Italian, 11:30 AM
Please join us in celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ

Cove United Methodist Church
12501 Lake Ave
Lakewood, Ohio
216-521-7424
coveumc.org
Find us on 

Worship with us!
Sundays 9 am

We are a traditional Bible-based ministry anchored in the love of God for all people. As a Reconciling Congregation, we welcome people of all gender identities, sexual orientations, races, classes, statuses and national origins.

Celebrate Christmas at Cove

Christmas Music Festival Dec. 11 at 7 pm
Christmas Eve Worship Dec. 24 at 7:30 pm
Christmas Day Worship Dec. 25 at 10 am

S.O.S Thrift Shop New Hours: First Fri/Sat every month
New Policy: \$5 Bag Sale each month
Dec. 2. and Dec. 3 9 am - 3 pm
Find us on Facebook (SOS Thrift Store at Cove UMC)

St. Augustine Church
2486 West 14th St. - 216-781-5530
Special Children's Eve Liturgy
welcoming especially for deaf and disabled children
4:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
5:30 p.m.
Midnight Mass
12:00 a.m.
Christmas Day
8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m.
All services will be signed for the deaf

Franklin Circle Christian Church
1688 Fulton Road
216-781-8232
www.FranklinCircleChurch.org


Sunday
9:30 Sunday School
10:30 Service
 **Weddings and**
Rental Space Available
Christmas Day Meal
11:00 am to 1:00 pm

COUNCILMAN ZONE

continued from page one

took over 50 minutes for an ambulance to arrive at their home. The delay infuriated Mary and many people in their west side neighborhood and all over Cleveland. As a result, Mary's first legislative initiative was the successful establishment of the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) unit in Cleveland, one of the very first of its kind in America and the world.

Mary Zone's proudest day during her public service was when Mayor George Voinovich and Cleveland City Council dedicated the Michael J. Zone Recreation Center in her ward. Councilman Michael Zone had been a tireless advocate for building a quality recreation center on Cleveland's west side, and was successful in lobbying the Ohio state legislature to kill legislation which would have used the land that the recreation center now occupies to build a state route highway tie-in.

Michael and Mary's 8th child, Matt, has continued his family's deep-rooted legacy of public service for the last 15 years since he was elected Cleveland City Council. In November, 2001 he took his seat representing Ward 15, which includes the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood where he and generations of his family grew up and served their beloved community for over 55 years.

During September 2016, Councilman Matt Zone traveled to Shanghai upon the invitation of the China Society of Administrative Reform to be a keynote speaker at their forum on "Urban Governance in the Context of New Trends of Urbanization: Challenges and Responses." Councilman Zone gave a presentation on the topic of "Joint Economic Development Agreements" which permit a regional approach to economic development by sharing the benefits and responsibilities of commercial and industrial development through cooperation and contracts between communities.

Matt is recognized nationally, regionally and locally as a leader on environmental and arts & cultural issues. On the national level, he now serves as President – Elect of the

National League of Cities, the United States oldest and largest organization representing 19,000 cities, towns and villages, serving more than 218 million Americans. The first (and last) Clevelander to hold the position of President of the National League of Cities was former US Senator George Voinovich, who served as its President in 1985 while Mayor of Cleveland. In 2017, Councilman Matt Zone will be the second Clevelander to be honored as the President of the National League of Cities.

Regionally, Councilman Zone has served as President of the Northeast Ohio City Council Association (NOCCA) and is one of the founding members of the Great Lakes Energy Development Task Force, which is working to create offshore wind generation in Lake Erie. Matt also serves on the steering committee of the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI), which is working to create a "Smart Growth" plan and "Revenue Sharing" for Northeast Ohio.

Locally, Councilman Zone continues to be a tireless advocate for alternative energy and green building. His district is home to the only "EcoVillage" in the State of Ohio and one of the first in the United States. An EcoVillage is a community of people creating a way of living that sustains healthy ecological relationships by offering an alternative model that strives to replace consumption and waste with preservation and regeneration. The Cleveland EcoVillage is complete with an LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) built school, theatre and certified Regional Transit Authority (RTA) rapid station, as well as highly energy efficient homes that heat and cool for less than \$500 annually and a model storm water demonstration project on 25-acre city recreational facility.

As a devoted supporter of the arts, this second-generation Zone believes the arts and culture community can serve as an economic generator. As soon as he took office, Councilman Zone set to work on a strategic plan to reinvigorate his ward's main thoroughfare -- Detroit Avenue. He drew upon the diverse culture and his love of the arts as a catalyst to save the community. He has been the driving force behind the development of the Gordon Square Arts District, which is comprised of new housing and businesses, retail development and the construction and renovation of three theaters. Councilman Zone also sponsored the City of Cleveland's "Percent for Arts" legislation, which requires all applicable capital improvement projects over \$300,000 to set aside 1.5 percent of the total budget to include artists in their design. He serves as council's representative on the city's Public Art committee.

Councilman Zone's background is quite diverse, and includes being a trained mediator and urban planner. He has worked with city constituents over the years and helped to empower stakeholders in the decision making process. Matt also has extensive experience fostering innovation, engagement and collaborative action across community sectors.

St. Malachi — Parish —
West 25th & Detroit Ave.
Cleveland 44113
CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!

• MASS SCHEDULE •

DEC. 24th
4:30PM, & 10PM

DEC. 25th
9:00 AM & 11:30 AM

DEC. 31st
4:30PM

JAN. 1st
9:00 AM & 11:30 AM

ST. PATRICK, BRIDGE
CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve
Confessions: 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Children's Mass: 4:30 p.m.
Midnight Mass:
Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.

Christmas Day
Masses: 8:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

tools in the Tool Box located outside the Mission Store in Sundays December 4, 11, or 18. Or contribute a gift card to Lowes or Home Depot towards the purchase of tools. Drop the gift cards in the main office mail slot to the right of the main office door or mail them to the church to the attention of the property manager at 2592 West 14th St, 44113.

FREE FOOD

FOOD, CLOTHING AND FRESH PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION is held on 4th Wednesday of every month. Fresh produce only at available on 2nd Wednesdays of every month at the May Dugan Center at 4115 Bridge Ave. Program Requirements: Adults: Photo ID's for all adults in the household, medical or social security cards Children: Proof of income for the household and proof of residency. Clients must reside in a West Side Zip Code.

HEATING ASSISTANCE

HEAP WINTER CRISIS PROGRAM can help pay utility bills. Apply by calling <216-518-4014> for a next day appointment between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM. You **MUST** make an appointment. They do not take walk-ins. Through March 31, 2017 at the Lin Omni Building, 3167 Fulton Road, Suite 303.

HEALTH CARE POLICY

Join UHCAN OHIO'S CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Give them your ideas about getting more people involved in UHCAN, describe unnecessary struggles and roadblocks with health care, help them decide what to do first and commit to be part of future planning meetings, help find others who can help inform them about what they are working on and what they should be working on. You will need to be able to attend monthly meetings in person or by phone if traveling is not possible. They are looking for a good mixture of about 20 people from all over Ohio who differ in age, gender, race, and health. Email <info@uhcanohio.org> or call 614/456-0060, ext. 222.

GRAFFITI

METRO WEST GRAFFITI ABATEMENT PROGRAM helps remove unsightly graffiti from commercial property. This 50/50 reimbursement program is available to business owners. If you pay to have graffiti removed, they will reimburse you half the cost (up to \$300). In order to receive your reimbursement you MUST contact SCFBC CDO prior to abating the graffiti, to inform them that you plan to participate in the program. If you are interested, please contact Keisha Gonzalez, Economic Development Director at (216) 961-9073 x204 or kgonzalez@scfbc.org.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

FREE HOLIDAY PARTY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY: Santa Claus is coming to our neighborhood on Saturday, December 10, from 1-3 p.m. at the Gordon Square Arcade, 6516 Detroit Avenue. Join the festivities: DJ, Fun, Snacks, Free gifts for kids. Bring a letter to Santa for the North Pole Mailbox. For more information, call 216-961-4242 x 243. Sponsored by Neighborhood Resident Volunteers, Neighborhood Connections and the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization.

78TH STREET STUDIOS will host **CLEVELAND BAZAAR HOLIDAY** on December 10th and 11th. Saturday from 10 am – 9 pm and Sunday from 10 am – 6 pm. at 1300 West 78th Street. Shop local, support handmade! [Clevelandbazaar.org](http://www.clevelandbazaar.org). Also visit every Friday from 11 am to 4 pm and on Third Fridays, including December 16, from 5 pm to 9 p.m. du

2016 HOLIDAY PEACE FESTIVAL AND BAZAAR is scheduled for Saturday, December 3 from 12 noon to 5 pm at Pilgrim Congregational Church at 2592 West 14th St. in Tremont. A Gathering of Cleveland Peace and Justice Organizations sponsored by Women Speak Out for Peace & Justice, of the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom. Local Artists Work for Sale Peace & Justice Cards, Calendars, T-shirts, Gifts, Books, Poinsettias, Bake Sale. Enjoy Lunch: Homemade soup, Chili and Sandwiches, Tamales. Accessible to the physically challenged. Free Admission/Free parking (south of building on W. 14th) WSOP/WILPF, 216-231-4245. To tell them what you can do, contact the following: ARTISTS, contact Gary Claxon at 216/281-5833, or dontake-lifeserious@gmail.com, GROUPS, contact Linda Park at 216/851-0968, or veggiepark@sbcglobal.net, BAKE SALE DONATIONS, Mitsu Wagner at 216/281-5833, or ohgo-finno@aol.com, DONATE SOUP, chili or sandwiches, Linda Park (info above), VOLUNTEER TO STAFF WSO stations, contact Linda Park.ng OPEN HOUSE every

NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY PRACTICE REFUGEE HEALTH SERVICES TEAM is hosting its first Cultural Winter Fest on Thursday, December 15th from 5:30-7 pm in the Education Center! Free and fun for the whole family! Learn about different cultures, try different foods, celebrate and

make new friends! There will be food, craft table, and giveaways! Embrace Cleveland's refugee families. Sample foods and dishes from many different cultures. There are two ways to get involved: 1. Attend the event as a guest and enjoy the experience! Please see the attached flyer for more details. 2. Participate! They are looking for participants who are interested educating others about their culture's winter holiday celebrations and traditional food! If you have any questions, or to register as a participant, please reach out to Meredith at <216-281-0872 ext. 214> or by email at: mbaumgartner@nfp-medcenter.org.

MIRACLE ON 47TH STREET is a free holiday event on Saturday, December 3rd from 5:30 – 7:30 pm on West 47th Street between Bridge Ave. and Franklin Blvd. in Ohio City.

Visit with Santa, reindeer, elf and snowman, talking tree, candy for the kids, hot cocoa, games, holiday lights and more. **WINTERTIDE AT GORDON SQUARE** is scheduled for Saturday, December 3 from 1pm to 7 pm. Enjoy unique holiday shopping, merriment and performances at this all-ages festival and celebration of the arts! 1:00pm "A Christmas Story" at Capitol Theatre (\$1 admission). 3:00pm-7:00pm. FREE Pop-up music & theatre performances. 3:00pm-5:00pm FREE horse & carriage rides. All-day holiday shopping throughout the district. Website: <http://detroitshoreway.org>.

THE TREE OF REMEMBRANCE: On Saturday, December 17th at 5PM the Walter Martens & Sons Funeral Home will have a dedication of our holiday of our holiday tree and a candlelight memorial service called "Tree of Remembrance." We invite anyone who has experienced a loss to visit our funeral home during the hours of 10AM and 8PM between now and December 16th and place a memorial inscription on an ornament provided by us to hang on our holiday tree. The ornament is yours to keep after the ceremony. This is free and open to all. For more information, please contact the funeral home at 216-281-7111.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

THE WORKPLACE INITIATIVE OF OHIO (WIO) project is a collaboration between Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (OOD) and the Ohio Business Leadership Network (OHBLN). The premise was to directly source OOD consumers in jobs with OHBLN members in the Cleveland and other areas. It will continue to find skilled, qualified workers for its employer partners. For more information, visit <http://ood.ohio.gov/Employers/OH-Business-Leadership-Network>.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OHIOANS WITH DISABILITIES AGENCY (OOD) has launched OODWorks.com vocational rehabilitation portal. The website provides information about OOD's VR services and has an online application, allowing a more streamlined and efficient process. This initial step ensures that individuals do not have to spend their first visit expending time filling out an application. Instead, that time can be used to get the individual started on their path to employment.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

EL BARRIO provides training and supportive services that result in steady jobs and career-building opportunities. Visit <http://files.constantcontact.com/4a59d850101/3924a9b9-f797-445d8910ca8e7cb44d38.pdf>

THE CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE is accepting applications through the online application and job portal. Click on the link below and select announcement number 89 Patrol Officer. To apply you must create an account. If you have any questions, please contact: Police Officer Anna Mercado 697, Cleveland Division of Police, (216) 623-3327. Visit <http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/CityofCleveland/Home/Government/CityAgencies/HumanResources/CareerCenter>

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

BOOKS NEEDED. The Little Free Library at Baltic Park can use some new books for the neighborhood kids to borrow. If you are able to donate a few, please contact Linda at the Cudell office (216/228-4383) to arrange pick up or drop off. Or just place them at the Little Free Library at your convenience. Ann Rowlett continues to volunteer to maintain the LFL.

NORTHERN OHIOANS FOR BUDGET LEGISLATION EQUALITY (NOBLE) will hold a workshop on December 10th, from 10 am- 12 pm that will help develop the action steps needed in order to successfully achieve goals set forward in the Platform last month. The Health and Mental health group is gearing up for the December meeting. Come to the meeting on December 10th to join in the discussion. Other groups are Kinship, Foster, Child care, APS and other health and human service issues, as well as Public Transportation, Education, Local Government, and Housing. For more information, visit <NOBLE - Facebook>



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, November 19, 2016; Van Rooy Coffee Building, 2900 Detroit Avenue (New home of SPACES), Creative Fusion Fall 2016 Edition: Cleveland Artist Donald Black Jr., hosted by the Transformer Station, created this photographic mural on the Side of the Van Rooy Coffee Company building, to reflect his perspective of Cleveland's urban neighborhoods.

LIBRARIES

LORAIN BRANCH LIBRARY: **KIDS CAFÉ:** Free after school healthy nutritious bagged meals for kids thanks to a partnership with the Cleveland Food Bank. Monday thru Friday, December 1-23 and Dec 27-30.

REINDEER GAMES: Children learn about and craft their own reindeer. Monday, December 5, 4:30 p.m.

MAKE A FROSTY FRIEND: As they enjoy tales of Frosty the Snowman, children will design their own snowman friend to take home. Thursday, December 15, 4:30 p.m.

GET YOUR GAME ON: Children and teens are invited to play board, computer and video games. Friday, December 23 at Noon

TOYS FROM THE PAST: Karen Lukas of the Cleveland Metroparks will display and describe toys from the past. Tuesday, December 27 at 1 p.m.

NEW YEAR, NEW CRAFT: Children will create a New Year, New Start craft to discover what they want out of the new year. Friday, December 30 at 11:30 a.m.

PILGRIM

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2016 HOLIDAY PEACE FESTIVAL AND BAZAAR. See "Holiday Events." **ARTS RENAISSANCE TREMONT** will present the Burning River Brass on Sunday, December 18 at 7 pm and Monday, December 19 at 7 pm. at Pilgrim Congregational Church 2592 West 14th St. Free will donation. Visit artconcerts.org and like them on Facebook.

RECREATION

NEAR WEST RECREATION. [Sign up for basketball today!](http://nearwestrec.org) Deadline is Tuesday, December 20. Near West Recreation is a partnership between Ohio City Incorporated, Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, Tremont West Development and Stockyards, Metro West Development Organization. Near West Recreation offers year-round recreation programming for children of all ages as well as select programs for adults. This league operates on a sliding-scale system, with need-based financial assistance available to participants living on Cleveland's Near West side, making it accessible to all. Currently, Near West Recreation offers baseball, soccer, basketball, youth & adult & family bowling, youth & women's boxing, volleyball, LEGO League, creative writing and more. Check out [Near West Recreation's Facebook page](http://nearwestrec.org) for updates!

Interested in coaching, sponsoring or volunteering? Email nearwestrec@ohiocity.org. VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED for all programs! No experience necessary! Please contact nearwestrec@ohiocity.org or at 216-781-3222 x 108. Parents can sign up to be on the Near West Recreation mailing list and text messaging list by visiting the website at www.ohiocity.org/nearwestrec or by calling 216-781-3222 x 108.

WEST SIDE

LITTLE ITALY BLOCK CLUB

Next meeting Tuesday, December 13 at 645 pm. At Gordon Square. A Representative of Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization will attend to provide information on proposed residential developments at w 67/Father Caruso and W 65 & Herman. Please bring a holiday dessert to share!

Visit the Plain Press online at: www.plainpress.org

CLASSIFIED

PLAIN PRESS CLASSIFIED: \$10 for 12 words and 30¢ for each additional word. To advertise count the words and mail a check or money order with your ad to the Plain Press, 2012 W. 25th #500 Cleveland, OH 44113. For more information call Tom Sheehan at (216) 621-3060 or email plainpressads@yahoo.com.

FLEA MARKETS/THRIFTS/ RUMMAGE SALES

ST. PAUL'S THRIFT STORE: W. 45th and Franklin, Clothing, Baby needs, Household Items and more. Now open the third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to Noon (regular prices). Prices all can afford. Many items \$1.00 and under. Also open every Wednesday 1 to 5 pm (regular prices) and First Saturday of the Month, 10 to noon with Bargain Prices and Clothes - \$1.00 per bag.

FOR RENT

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

PROPERTY OWNERS NEEDED: If you are a property owner with nice, clean, reasonably priced apartments, and are looking for tenants, please call Care Alliance at (216) 924-0429 and ask for Jim Schlecht.

HELP WANTED

SMALL CLEANING COMPANY seeking detail oriented self-motivated person to clean houses in the mornings to mid-afternoons. Must have a clean background and transportation. 216-273-7546.

HORIZON EDUCATION CENTERS EARLY CARE & EDUCATION/AFTER SCHOOL: Now Hiring at Market Square and Old Brooklyn Centers. Want to Make a Difference? We are a Nonprofit Leader in High Quality Childcare/ Afterschool Programming. Entry Level & Career Positions FT/PT w/ Benefits (Health Ins., Retirement, PTO/Holidays, Childcare Discounts.) Apply online www.horizonohio.org

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Menlo Park Academy breaks ground at Joseph & Feiss Clothing Company site

On Wednesday, November 16, Menlo Park Academy, a school which specializes in serving gifted children, broke ground on its renovation of the historic Joseph & Feiss Clothing Company property on W. 53rd in the Stockyard neighborhood's Fenwick area. When the renovation is completed, Menlo Park Academy plans to move the school from Triskett Road in the West Park neighborhood to the W. 53rd site.

Menlo Park Academy currently serves over 400 students and hopes to be able to serve nearly twice as many students at the 7-acre Joseph and Feiss site in a main building which is nearly 80,000 square feet. Menlo Park Academy is a charter school that will partner with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District as part of the Cleveland Plan. Charter schools approved for the plan, receive a portion of the funds from the Cleveland School Operating Levy just renewed by Cleveland voters.

Menlo Park Academy, a Kindergarten through eighth grade non-profit community school for gifted learners, was founded in 2008 by parents seeking to find appropriate educational option for their gifted children. The plan, according to Fraser Hamilton, a Menlo Park Academy parent and board member, is for the newly renovated school to be ready for the 2017-2018 school year. (Menlo Park Academy plans new school for Joseph & Feiss site, August 2016 Plain Press).

Menlo Park sees its mission to develop the potential of gifted learners through an exemplary program of rewarding experiences that nurtures the whole child. The school draws students living throughout the county. Cleveland Metropolitan School District Executive Director of Charter Schools Stephanie Klupinski says Menlo Park Academy plans to increase their student population overall and also hopes to increase their population of students from Cleveland.

ROLDO

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Jackson pauses, smiles, then finishes the thought: "Lonnie used to say, 'Frank, you gotta speak up more.' I would say, 'Lonnie, that ain't my role.' But I also told him, 'At the right time, I will.'

However, to paraphrase, "I knew Lonnie, and Jackson is no Lonnie Burten."

The groundbreaking event was a special ceremony that brought together the community, and the individuals and organizations that made the development possible. The building, which has been vacant for nearly 20 years, will undergo extensive renovation with the \$17-million raised. The complex financing package includes over \$10 million in tax credits and grant funds including State of Ohio and Federal Historic Tax Credits, State and Federal New

Market Tax Credits, and a grant from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission.

In attendance at the ceremony were key partners of Menlo Park Academy's (MPA) success in securing the funds to finance the renovation including: PNC Regional President Paul Clark, Your CFO Resource President Betsy Figgie, and Reinvestment Fund VP of Strategic Investments Sara Vernon-Sterman. Other speakers included: Ohio

Facilities and Construction Services Chief of Facility and Program Services Jeffrey Westhoven and IFF Vice President and Executive Director Kirby Burkholder.

PNC Regional President Paul Clark stated in his ceremony remarks, it's "a facility worthy of the investment".

City of Cleveland officials in attendance included City of Cleveland Community Development Director Michael Cosgrove, Ward 3 Coun-

cilperson Kerry McCormack, and Cleveland City Council President Kevin Kelley. Cosgrove and McCormack spoke of the positive influence they expect the development to have on the surrounding community, while Kelley spoke of the importance of a school dedicated to the special needs of gifted learners in the Cleveland area.

For more information on Menlo Park Academy and student qualifications, visit www.MenloParkAcademy.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MENLO PARK ACADEMY

Wednesday, November 16, 2016; W. 53rd Street, former site of Joseph & Feiss Clothing Company: Groundbreaking ceremony for the new Menlo Park Academy

Jackson has become too enamored with himself. It happens at a time when the news media is at its lowest power point.

I wrote some time ago: The Councilman who proudly showed himself as the man of and with the people is now Mayor and patsy of the rich. A toady to power.

A corrupted progeny of Lonnie Burten. He knows what I mean.

Jackson used one the most comi-

cal of reasons to close Superior Ave. to vehicle use. He had his Safety Director Michael McGrath, in a letter to the Regional Transit Authority (RTA), claims terror as a reason for closing the street.

How pathetic.

He wrote that opening the street could encourage a terrorist to use a "cargo truck" to plow into people.

Why not close the air space over Public Square since a drone could drop a bomb on people? Makes as

much sense to me.

This is especially true when you need a reason to do something unreasonable.

I'm not at city hall these days so I don't know the details that would tell me exactly what's going on politically in the city. However, I've been there and I know that a challenge to a mayor ripe for attack requires someone to begin to prepare the political atmosphere for change.

I don't see this happening. Not a

smart politician in sight.

But it must. This city needs a shaker up. Badly.

Jackson would deserve it if RTA Chief Executive Officer Joseph Calabrese, a guy who has done an excellent job operating a tough and formerly troubled agency, tells him that this is the last straw: "Here's my resignation. I'm leaving. I'll wait until you find a replacement. But count me out. I'm not part of this debacle called Cleveland."

WEST SIDE MARKET

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Easy access by RTA buses and rapid. Free parking in the rear of the market.

HEALTHY MEAL PREP

continued from page one

a lite whip cream. Participants scooped up the dip with graham crackers. Other dishes Sara demonstrated included a salad featuring raw Brussel sprouts, carrots and romaine lettuce, and a kale salad with diced apples, onions and a dressing made from maple syrup, vinegar, oil and a dash of salt and pepper.

Sara also offered tips for cooking turkey, stuffing, and low calorie pumpkin pie. She urged participants to look for recipes in Cooking Light or Weight Watchers magazines. She also said she found recipes on the American Heart Association and Cooking Matters websites. Sara says she picks recipes that are easy and quick to make and involve just a few ingredients. She said a number of the recipes chosen for the class involved ingredients that were now on sale at one of the local grocery stores.

Each participant attending the workshops received a free turkey as well as a meat thermometer. They also received a booklet with Healthy Holiday Recipes and a number of the recipes that were demonstrated in the class including one for a pie dough.

Sara says she plans another workshop this winter on cooking with a crock pot. The workshops were made possible through the support of Molina Health.

FIFTH THIRD BANK

continued from page 4

tance." The article also says that the low rating would count against Fifth Third in any application for a merger or acquisition of another bank.

The agreement between Fifth Third Bank and the National Community Reinvestment Coalition's (NCRC) is praised on both organizations websites. A statement about the agreement on the Fifth Third Bank website indicates that one of the promises of the agreement involves bank branches. "The Fifth Third Impact programming includes branch and staff commitments. Fifth Third will seek to open at least 10 more branches in LMI (low and moderate income) and/or high minority communities," says the Fifth Third Bank statement about the agreement.

Bromley says the Fifth Third branch at 3500 Lorain Avenue has "\$18 million in deposits and provides services to low income people in the neighborhood as well as merchants." He notes the bank is also on two major bus lines – the Lorain Avenue and Fulton bus lines- and serves a large Hispanic population.

Bromley sees Fifth Third Bank's

plans to close the branch as a violation of the branch and staff commitments Fifth Third just made in the agreement with the NCRC. He says if the branch closes, the nearest Fifth Third branch will be in Tremont on Professor Avenue.

Once the signatures on the petition are gathered, Bromley says a public meeting will be called. Individuals interested in attending the meeting or signing the petition can contact Organize Ohio at 216-651-2606 for more information.

Editor's Historical Note: The Fifth Third bank branch is located on the first floor of a bank building at 3500 Lorain Avenue built in 1918 as a Cleveland Trust Bank Branch. The building was rehabbed in 2003 through a partnership of Ohio City Near West Development Corporation (now Ohio City Inc.), The Cleveland Green Building Coalition and Cleveland Urban Properties. It became home of the Cleveland Environmental Center. At the time the rehab was touted as the first commercial green rehabilitation project in the State of Ohio. The bank branch on the first floor of the building was viewed as a major anchor which helped make the project feasible.