



**PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN**  
**Saturday, December 17, 2016, West Side Market, W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue: David Gentile and Sam Shaw sell fresh produce at Brothers Produce. Gentile says business is down 70% due to West Side Market parking spots being taken by other area businesses. "I have never seen it this bad," said Gentile.**

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# Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

## Proposal for new policies for police crisis intervention teams revealed

by Chuck Hoven

The City of Cleveland proposed policies for its Crisis Intervention Teams Program were revealed at a Community Forum on December 13 at Urban Community School at 4909 Lorain Avenue. In addition to reviewing drafts of the new policy, residents and stakeholders were given the opportunity to make suggestions on how to improve the policies prior to their submission to United States District Court Judge Solomon Oliver for final approval.

The proposed new Cleveland Division of Police policies would

govern how police officers respond to persons experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis. A panel involved in the presentation said the new policies should result in safer interactions between mental health consumers and police, increase referrals to mental health services and treatment programs, and reduce interactions with the criminal justice system. The panel noted that police officers selected from volunteers to the Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) would receive 40 hours of specialized training in crisis intervention. The Cleveland

Division of Police would aim to have CIT officers available 24/7 to respond to crisis situations throughout the City of Cleveland. The CIT program would also collect data on all interactions with persons in crisis, and a Mental Health Response Advisory Committee would use the data to continually monitor and improve the program.

Cleveland will put its own stamp on a Crisis Intervention Team strategy that relies on community support, direction, and advice says Dr. Randolph Dupont, a Consent Decree Monitoring Team Member, Professor and Clinical Psychologist in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice of the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Memphis. He said the proposed policy will serve a model for other cities.

The new policies and procedures largely focus on Cleveland Division of Police's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program and Crisis Intervention Team Response. The CIT Program is designed to respond to individuals in crisis in situations where "an individual's safety and health are threatened by behavioral health challenges, to include mental illness, developmental disabilities, substance use, or overwhelming stressors."

As part of the Consent Decree between the Cleveland Division of Police with the United States Department of Justice, the Cleveland Division of Police agreed to make changes in its general police orders. One of the general police orders it agreed to change was on Handling the Mentally Ill Population. In collaboration with the City of Cleveland, the Department of Justice, the Cleveland Police Monitoring Team, the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County and the

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**PHOTO BY TED LOBAUGH**  
**Saturday, December 3, 2016, Wintertide at Gordon Square, 6516 Detroit Avenue: Danielle Tilk of the WIZBANG Variety Show by Pinch and Squeal entertains a crowd in the Gordon Square Arcade.**

## Clark & Newton D. Baker schools honored for academic growth

**CMSD NEWS BUREAU** Cleveland Metropolitan School District's (CMSD) Clark School, at 5550 Clark Avenue, and the Newton D. Baker School of the Arts, at 3690 W. 159<sup>th</sup> Street, have received state awards for exceeding expectations in student academic growth.

The State Board of Education presents the Momentum Awards annually to schools that receive straight A's on "value-added" measurements on their state report

cards. Clark and Newton D. Baker are two of just 174 schools in Ohio that won the award this year.

Value-added measures whether students met or exceeded expectations for the year as a school and in subgroups that include students who rank in the lowest 20 percent in achievement, have disabilities or are considered gifted.

On Nov. 29, 2016 the awards earned both schools a visit from

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**PHOTO BY TED LOBAUGH**  
**Saturday, December 3, 2016, Daily Press, 6604 Detroit Avenue, Wintertide, an art infused holiday experience, at Gordon Square: Stephen Haluska plays the harp.**

## Variety Theater rehab is key to fate of Lorain Avenue Master Plan in Jefferson neighborhood

by Nathan Purdom

The beautiful marquee of the Variety Theater, recently lit up for the first time in years, is visible evidence of a brighter future for the Lorain Avenue neighborhood at West 118<sup>th</sup> Street.

Earlier generations of neighborhood residents, who visited the Variety in its heyday, saw vaudeville acts, Sunday 3-D monster matinees, world-record shattering metal shows, and wrestling events.

After a decade's work by neighborhood organizations, development groups and Councilwoman Dona Brady, the resurgent Variety Theater is coming to life again with an entrepreneurial spirit and new found optimism.

The Variety Theater is the cornerstone of the Lorain Avenue Master Plan, commissioned by the Westown Development Corp. in 2008.

The plan seeks to re-establish the commercial district that flourished in the area until an economic downturn striking Cleveland in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The fate of the Lorain Master Plan is tightly connected with the 89-year-old theater complex.

"Grand as anything in Playhouse Square, and grander than many in Times Square," said Councilwoman Brady, who has championed the return of the local theater complex. She believes that the Variety can be the distinctive catalyst necessary to drive dollars back into the neighborhood. She envisions the Variety as a mixed-use space whose beautifully stylish and intimate interior will lure local acts and small events, "from ballet to boxing, and weddings," said Brady.

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**PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN**  
**Tuesday, December 20, 2016; Variety Theater Complex, Lorain Avenue at W. 118<sup>th</sup> Street.**



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, December 3, 2016, Wintertide at Gordon Square, Rincon Criollo Restaurant, 6504 Detroit Avenue: Tito Ruiz and Tony Perez greet Wintertide guests as they sell meat grilled on a stick and ready to eat.

**ARTS AND CULTURE**  
**BLACK AND BLUE SIDE BY SIDE**, an art show with powerful images of African-American men standing with Cleveland Police officers. This ongoing project has been working since August 2016 to build better relationships between groups. Located at the Cleveland Collection Gallery LTD at 2529 Detroit Ave., at the corner of West 26<sup>th</sup> from Friday January 13 at 6 pm to Sunday, January 15 at 4 pm. Visit them on Facebook at Cleveland Collection Gallery LTD.

**CLEVELAND PUBLIC THEATER.** ENTRY POINT will take place January 20-22. Part festival, part conference – CPT is convening a three-day-long festival showcase of raw, art-in-the-making, to take place across 6 stages, and featuring over 50 artists and 12 new works in progress. \*\*FREE panel discussions with visiting artists will take place on Saturday at 2:00pm and 3:30pm. No ticket required. For panel descriptions, details & artist bios, visit the CPT website at <http://www.cptonline.org/performances/seasons/2016-2017/entry-point/>.

**CLEVELAND METRO SCHOOLS**  
**HIGH SCHOOL CHOICE FAIR IN COMING.** Eighth-graders and

families can attend CMSD's annual High School Choice Fair from Jan. 30 to Feb. 1 at Cleveland State University's Wolstein Center. CMSD eighth-graders will attend the fair with their classmates during the school day so they can browse options and weigh the critical choice of where to attend high school. The fair will be open to families from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 1. Students can attend any school in the District if space is available and, in certain cases, if they meet admissions criteria. Under The Cleveland Plan, a blueprint for education reform in the city, the District lets students choose so they can find the right fit. Choices include a downtown aerospace and maritime high school, and a Campus International High School, which will be based on the successful model of International Baccalaureate education and be located on the campus of Cleveland State University.

**PRACTICE ONLINE FOR OHIO STATE TESTS.** Students can stay focused during winter break and prepare for the Ohio State Tests by taking online practice exams. Students and parents can find tutorials and work on practice problems by going to <https://cleveland.schoolnet.com/outreach/>. Click on Student\_Parent Ohio State Test Resources along the

left and then click on the "practice portal" link.

**CLIMATE EDUCATION**  
**BECOME A COMMUNITY CLIMATE AMBASSADOR:** Apply if you want to learn about how your neighborhood can become greener, healthier, more comfortable in changing weather and climate conditions, and if you are interested in teaching others. Each leader will be compensated in the amount of \$750 and will be required to make a commitment of roughly 50 hours between January 2017 and December 2017. Leaders will be required to: attend at least one meeting a month, sometimes more than one; promote programs and projects to gain resident support; identify opportunities for additional peer to peer education and outreach; and attend a meeting on January 17. Applications must be submitted by January 6. For more information, contact Adam Davenport at 216-961-4242 ext.265 at Detroit Shoreway or ADavenport@dscdo.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
**CLARK AVENUE REHABILITATION PROJECT** (Lorain (W. 90th & Clark) to West 41<sup>st</sup> Street) will be the topic of a Public Information Meeting on Thursday, January 5 from 6-7 pm at the Clark Recreation Center at 5706 Clark Ave. The purpose of this meeting is to present information regarding the construction of the Clark Avenue Rehabilitation Project. The planned work includes the installation of a water main, street rehabilitation; repair of curbs, sidewalks and drive aprons as needed; ADA compliant ramps; catch basins additions; new bicycle facilities; and traffic signals upgrading. The project will begin in February 2017 and is scheduled to be completed in December 2019. The meeting will inform residents



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.

and businesses about the specifics of the project and what to expect during construction.

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS**  
 CCPC will hold four Regional January Membership Meetings, all with the same agenda. The intent is to have smaller group settings and to provide a meeting location close to where you live. The Northwest Regional Meeting will be held from 7 to 8:30 pm on Thursday, January 12 at the CCPC Westside Office, 11910 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood. Agenda items include: 1) CCPC in 2017, 2) Working inside and outside the County and State Democratic Parties, 3) CCPC endorsement of candidates in 2017, and 4) Emergency response teams when Trump becomes president.

**CUDELL**  
**42nd ANNUAL MEETING TO FEATURE NEW DISTRICT ONE POLICE COMMANDER.** New District One Police Commander Daniel Fay will be the Keynote Speaker at Cudell Improvement, Inc.'s 42nd Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 18 at Brennan's Banquet Center at 13000 Triskett Road. Thanks to generous support from Third Federal Savings & Loan, the meeting is free of charge. The festivities get under way at 6:45 PM and will feature awards, door prizes and a fabulous pizza and pasta bar!

**FOOD ASSISTANCE**  
**FOOD ASSISTANCE (FOOD STAMPS)** is available from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank for individuals in need: with monthly income less than \$1276 for 1 person households, to \$2628 for 4 person households. For more information, call 216-738-7229 or email [AAshraf@ClevelandFoodbank.org](mailto:AAshraf@ClevelandFoodbank.org). Ask about more detailed information on income guidelines. Help finding medical insurance, hot meals and pantries also available. Spanish interpreter available.

**AFTER SCHOOL MEALS:** For information on FREE MEALS children in grades K-12 after school Monday- Friday, visit City of Cleveland Recreation Centers Serve After School Meals online (<https://clecityhall.com/2016/09/14/city-of-cleveland-recreation-centers-serve-after-school-meals/>) or call 216-664-2305 for nonprofit locations.

**HEATING ASSISTANCE**  
**HEAP WINTER CRISIS PROGRAM** can help pay utility bills for families that are income eligible. 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. **WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM** for eligible applicants with incomes of \$23,760 for one person households, \$32,040 for two person households, up to \$81,780 for 8 person households. Free services may include furnaces, insulation, hot water tank, refrigerator, and light bulbs. Visit

the Cleveland Housing Network website at <http://www.chnnet.com/weatherization.aspx> for more information and renter and homeowner applications.

**HISPANIC COMMUNITY**  
**LA FIESTA DE REYES:** Día 6 de enero del 2017, hora 6 pm – 9 pm, lugar: 1600 Buhner Avenue. Llame para Registrarse al: 216-664-6248 o 216-664-3290.  
**LAVILLA HISPANA.** Reunion de Participacion Comunitaria. Ven a enterarte, expresate y ser parte de esto! Jueves 19 de Enero 5:30 – 8:00 pm. The Family Ministry Center at 3389 Fulton Rd. Light dinner will be served. Community Engagement Townhall. Come to find out, express yourself and be part of this! Thursday, January 19 from 5:30 – 8 pm. Sponsored by the Hispanic Alliance (216-661-4249) and Metro West Community Development Organization (216-961-9073).

**LEAD HAZARD**  
**FREE LEAD HAZARD REPAIRS** help protect children. Lead poisoning may cause damage to the brain and nervous system, and result in behavior, learning and other problems in children. Most children with lead poisoning do not look or act sick. To participate in the program, the home must be in the city of Cleveland, be built before 1978, child under the age of 6 must live in or visit the home more than 20 hours each week or have a pregnant woman living in the home, families must be low income, families must be low income (all eligible families get free lead inspection). Landlords are required to pay a minimum of \$600 towards the project. For more information and an application, contact: City of Cleveland Lead Hazard Control Program (Brian Kimball at 216-664-4021), Community Housing Solutions (Ms. Gibson at 216-651-0077) or Cleveland Tenants Organization (Fouad Yared at 216-432-0617 ext. 2603).

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY**  
**VARIOUS MUSEUMS** are free to the public with special events on Monday, January 16: The Cleveland Museum of Art (<http://www.clevelandart.org>), the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (<https://www.cmnh.org/discoveryday>), and the Cleveland History Center/Western Reserve Historical Society (<http://www.wrhs.org/events/martin-luther-king-jr-day-free-admission-2>).

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION CONCERT** will be held at

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### Long time West Side Market merchant Terry Leu of Rolston Poultry heads into retirement

Regular West Side Market shoppers and market stand workers will surely miss the smiling face, ready conversation, and quick wit of Terry Leu. After 24 years of running the Rolston Poultry stand at the West Side Market, Terry Leu has decided to retire. Leu says he has done well as a West Side Market merchant. He says, "The West Side Market has been good to me."

In his retirement, Leu says he now hopes to spend some time traveling, including a trip with a friend to the Cleveland Indians Spring Training Camp in Arizona. He also has some home maintenance tasks at home that his wife has asked him to work on.

Born into a West Side Market family, Lue worked for his family's stand, Leu Brothers, for 11 years prior to buying Rolston Poultry. Leu Brothers, which opened in 1912, was across the aisle from Rolston Poultry and sold hot dogs, ham, bacon and sausage.

Some of Terry Leu's earliest memories are of events at the West Side Market. Terry Leu remembers cutting himself while cutting up hotdogs at Leu Brothers when he was seven

years old. He said, he and his father walked down W. 25<sup>th</sup> to Lutheran Hospital. Leu said he apparently learned his lesson, he hasn't cut himself like that since, despite many years of cutting up chickens for his customers at Rolston Poultry.

Leu said his plan was to sell the business to, Don Whitaker, the owner of the adjoining D.W. Whitaker Meats stand. He said Whitaker had an excellent plan to continue to serve Leu's mostly food stamp customers with chicken sales on one side of the counter and to mix in some more specialty items on the other side of the counter. However, the West Side Market Manager Felicia Hall wouldn't allow the transfer of ownership to Whitaker, because she said Whitaker already owned two stands and she wanted to get more diversity in the ownership of stands.

A potential sale to another interested West Side Market Merchant was cancelled for the same reason. While Leu is going ahead with his plans for retirement, he says at this point he does not have a buyer for the stand.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, December 17, 2016, West Side Market, W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue: (L-R) Joe Wayma and Terry Leu at Rolston Poultry. Stand owner Terry Leu says he is retiring after 24 years at Rolston Poultry and 35 years working at the West Side Market. Prior to Rolston Poultry, Leu worked across the aisle at his family's stand, Leu Brothers, selling ham, bacon and sausage.

### CLARK AND NEWTON D. BAKER SCHOOLS

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Ohio State Board of Education member Mary Rose Oakar. She said she was impressed with what she saw during a tour of the buildings and during her interactions with teachers, students and administrators.

"What I saw today was a lot of dedication and love," Oakar said. "When you like what you do and the students love being here, that is very, very special and that contributes to their learning ability."

Oakar said, the awards are a reflection of success and improvements happening in schools across

the District.

"Not only are Clark and Newton D. Baker fine schools, but Cleveland has a lot of fine schools," she said.

In a letter to Clark Principal Amanda Rodriguez, State Board of Education President Thomas Gunlock praised the school for its gains in reading and mathematics.

"This is especially commendable because you no doubt have a diverse array of students whose educational backgrounds and learning needs vary," Gunlock wrote. "As a winner of a Momentum Award, you are part of a group of schools that is showing that children of every

background and ability level can achieve."

Rodriguez credits the academic growth to the high expectations she sets for everyone who walks into the school, including students, parents, teachers, administrators and community members.

"Our number-one focus is building relationships with the students," Rodriguez said. "If you don't have a relationship with them, you can't


educate them."

Newton D. Baker Principal Wendy Rose-Geiling also says a positive, inclusive school culture contributes to her students' gains. Every teacher has a personal investment in the

success of every student, the principal said.

"We have an environment where they're not 'his' students, or 'her' students," Rose-Geiling said. "They're 'our' students."

**Attention Non Profit Organizations:** The Plain Press Community Guide will appear in the March issue of the *Plain Press*. To update your free listing, or to purchase an advertisement email the *Plain Press* at: plainpressads@yahoo.com.



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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, December 20, 2016; Cheerio Building, 7310 Detroit Avenue.

## Cheerio Building rehab adds retail space and apartments to Gordon Square area

by Adam Scraga

The building was in disarray, layers of trash covered the floors, and homeless people came and went. It was more than 100 years old and most people would have torn the building down, but Howard Grandon is not most people.

Grandon is the owner of the building at 7310 Detroit Ave. and is responsible for its incredible transformation. The mounds of trash a distant memory, 7310 Detroit Avenue is now a commercial retail space as well as an apartment building.

"I really like saving old things," Grandon said. "People nowadays throw things away as soon as something goes wrong and I like to re-use and recycle, and used that in my building design." When Banter first opened, a 90-year-old table was placed in the wine room for people to gather at. Banter is one of the tenants of the new building, a restaurant serving sausages, poutine and beer.

"I bought the building at the bottom of the real estate market and it was a good investment," Grandon said. "It's near the lake, near downtown, and the neighborhood was starting to make a turnaround and I wanted to be a part of it." Grandon purchased the building in late 2009.

The structure at 7310 Detroit Ave. is called the "Cheerio Building,"

named after a bar called, "Cheerio" that occupied the space for at least 50 years, dating back to the 1930s.

Local architectural historian Craig Bobby says the building was "built in 1909. Its original owner was Alfred Arthur and the architectural firm responsible for its design was White and Shupe."

Today, the Cheerio Building has five retail spaces, three occupied by the restaurant Banter and two empty retail spaces that Grandon is in talks to fill, potentially with an attorney, a barber shop, or a yoga studio. On the second floor are four apartments, one of which Grandon lives in, himself. Two others have permanent residents and the last apartment is being used for short-term corporate housing.

From 1997 until Grandon purchased it in 2009, the building bounced around from owner to owner, bank to bank. There were eight different owners during that time span. It was not easy restoring the building. Grandon says it took more than two years to get it into a condition where utilities could be installed.

Banter, a restaurant specializing in sausages, poutine, and beer, opened in December 2015. The floors inside Banter are made from old tiles from the Elyria High School basketball court, another example of Grandon's reusing old things. Behind the building is a large dining patio with plentiful seating, lighting, and flowers everywhere. There are three sections to Banter, the bar and restaurant and two others selling bottles of wine and beer.

Banter has three owners, Matt Stipe, Adam Gullett, and Tom Owen. Adam Lambert was their chef and created the menu when it opened but now owns his own restaurant.

Banter has quickly received many accolades and was called *Scene Magazine's* "Best New Restaurant" this past April. It also was on the list of "The 15 Best New Restaurants in Cleveland" by the Plain Dealer in May, and was even included on the list of "46 Things to do in Cleveland during the GOP Convention" by the New York Times in July.

Grandon is not surprised by all the attention given to Banter and believes there could be more to come, because of the new television show "Cleveland Hustles," produced by LeBron James, which focuses on giving entrepreneurs a chance to compete to get an investment for a business in the Gordon Square neighborhood.

"[Cleveland Hustles] has had a big impact on the Gordon Square area," Grandon said. "People are more aware of what's here. People are coming down to look around. They might come to see one business in particular and find five more that interest them, so it's great for everyone."

Grandon says now is a great time for any businesses interested in moving to the Gordon Square area. "There's a growth factor – 600 new housing units are being built nearby. Edgewater Beach is getting a brand-new beach house next year. There's also a freeway ramp on West 73<sup>rd</sup> Street being built which will make it easier to access."

The Cheerio Building is just one of many in the area making a turnaround. With much more attention and traffic coming through, Grandon feels this is just the beginning of the revitalization of Gordon Square.

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# W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street Lofts rehabilitation adds 83 apartments and commercial space on Church Avenue between W. 25<sup>th</sup> and W. 28<sup>th</sup> streets

by Theresa Delaney

"My dad sold chickens at the Westside Market," says Rick Foran, a real estate developer, explaining how he got interested in a \$25 million project on W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street. Rick Foran of The Foran Group is one of the developers of the W. 25<sup>th</sup>

Metropolitan Housing Authority, and offices before Foran purchased them for renovation.

According to local architectural historian Craig Bobby, nearly all the buildings that front on Church Avenue that are part of this project "were built for the Riester & Thesmacher

to join parades or hear prestigious speakers. What remains of the I.O.O.F. Hall is a now empty 6,000 square foot building. It is gutted out, as the first floor of this building has experienced a time reversal. Foran is unveiling "original brick walls and cast iron columns, while retaining the vertical space in the building," he said.

As he walked out on the boarded, temporary, sidewalk on W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street in front of the former I.O.O.F. building, he notes the new windows they waited about two years to customize and fit the gothic shaped historic frame of the 25<sup>th</sup> Lofts from the 1800s. The W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street Lofts are now renting 1, 2, and 3 bedroom apartments, and spacious lofts, some with two floors. Some have access to a patio, so there are many designs to choose from.

Directly in the middle of the project on Church Avenue is a huge skylight. There is plenty of parking in various spaces on the property, with garages spaces inside for tenants. It has a nice size fitness room and neutral carpet and painted walls throughout the halls.

Foran showed a couple of apartments that had an original Maplewood floor restored. On other floors, the wood had been replaced. The building was full of surprises.

long, horizontal cut out piece of the wall a foot from the ceiling, like a stolen piece of a sunlight to borrow from the next room that has larger windows.

The International Order of Odd Fellows Building which once had an address of 315-321 Pearl Road is going to be a new home for a storefront and apartments at the corner of W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Church Avenue (1504-12 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street).

At 327-329 Pearl was the Baehr Brewery Building first constructed by Jacob Baehr, a former employee of the Leisy Brothers Brewery, a German, immigrant that moved from Iowa with his eight children and wife Magdalena. He established his own brewery there.

Jacob died five years later and never got a chance to see his idea flourish to its fullest potential. Magdalena ran a saloon in the storefront while living in a house directly behind the saloon. She also ran the brewery behind the house her husband built.

The building still has the original brewery brick smoke stack from the 1800's. Some of the new residents will have the luxury of having this little piece of history going through their apartments.

The building started as a single-story structure. But the Baehr brewery business did so well, after

Magdalena took over, she added two more floors. The family started living a more "opulent" lifestyle, Foran says, as you can tell when you walk through the parts of the building that used to be the Baehrs' home. Some of the features of the house still had two marble fire places, pocket doors, chandeliers and detailed designs in the plastered molding along the edges of the ceiling on the second floor.

Baehr built a brick stable for the horses. The family would manage to get the beer kegs in and out of the basement cellar. A tilted floor in the basement was built with a wide V shaped slant for the ice aged lager beer to stay cold in the winter. While in storage for the winter ice was brought in from the Cuyahoga River across Pearl Road and placed in the basement on the kegs of beer to start the aging. As the ice melted the water went in the floor and out of the building.

A restaurant will likely be located on the first floor, and a shared space snugged in between the two halves of the building may provide space for a patio and dining, Foran said.

In 1898, more than thirty years after starting the brewery, Mrs. Baehr sold the company to Cleveland and Sandusky Brewing Company. Cleveland and Sandusky Brewing Company lasted into the 1960s, says architectural historian Craig Bobby.



1951 PHOTO FROM THE CLEVELAND NEWS

1951 photo of the Odd Fellows Building on the Southwest Corner of W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Church Avenue (1504-1512 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street.) The Odd Fellows Building, built in 1873, and designed by Cudell and Richardson. Its original address was 315-321 Pearl Road. This photo found in the Cleveland Public Library's collection by architectural historian Craig Bobby was later photoshop enhanced by Tim Barrett in July of 2006.

Street Lofts at the corner of Church Street and W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street in the Ohio Historic District.

This master piece is located across the street from St. John's Episcopal Church, referred to as the "Station Hope," once a stop for runaway slaves passing through and one of the oldest edifice churches in Cuyahoga County. On this property, next to the church Foran has renovated a small building and made it a temporary office at their request, he said.

The Foran Group focuses on projects that involve urban revitalization and historic preservation. The project had been on pause for almost six years. Plans started in 2012, but then the housing market and economy crashed so the Foran's Group had to find new sources of financing.

The Arts & Sciences Preparatory Academy moved into a warehouse on the west end of the project at W. 28<sup>th</sup> and Church, after Foran and his group took over the property, providing rent to help pay the mortgage, Foran said. The charter school was run by Mosaica Education out of Atlanta. The school has since moved out, and that area is being renovated for part of the 83-unit project, with 64 different floor plans.

The project renovation is being financed by a Federal Housing Administration-insured loan with Love Funding. It's location in a historic district made it eligible for a tax credit, although a small part of the property did not fit into the historic district. Foran's Group now occupies the entire block from W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street to W. 28<sup>th</sup> Street, on the south side of Church Avenue, with two separate \$4 million in tax credits approved.

The buildings on the property were home to Exhibits Builders, Inc., a warehouse for the Cuyahoga

Company, after they acquired these properties at different times during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Phoenix Ice Company did some building at the W. 28<sup>th</sup> Street end of the property"

In the early 1900's, the Riester and Thesmacher Co. (R & T) was located there, according to Sandborn maps. R & T made pressed tin and sheet metal fabricators among other things. Today you can still see the remains of designs and pressed tin on the walls and ceiling fixtures as Foran uncovered the historic beauty of the architecture and décor that remained underneath drywalls and dropped ceilings.

Masonic Hall Association and the Westside International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) were once located on the east side of the complex, facing what was then called Pearl Avenue. In 1881, I.O.O.F. Hall had huge galas and meetings that attracted people from near and far, with thousands of people in line



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, December 20, 2016; 1504 -1512 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street at Church Avenue, the former International Order of Odd Fellows building. Architectural historian Craig Bobby notes the top two floors of the building were removed due to extensive damage from a tornado in June of 1953.

The original architecture was laced with contemporary trinkets like stainless steel refrigerators, dish washers and stoves, and granite counter tops. The building has lots of light since there are no buildings blocking the second level apartments. The bedrooms have a technique on the walls called borrowed light -- a

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, December 20, 2016; This building at W. 42<sup>nd</sup> and Lorain Avenue now houses the Lady Luck Hair Parlor.

## VARIETY THEATER

continued from page one

The old balcony will be reworked into a one screen cinema with lounge style recliners specializing in older movies meant for viewing on the large screen. Wizard of Oz, ET, musicals, and classic children's movies will play at the Variety. Tray tables will be added to the recliners so patrons can order up food from the Tony George restaurant slated to open in the sprawling confines. The 13 outdated, efficiency apartments, making up the second story of the theater complex, will be converted into 10 larger, modern living spaces.

Brady has begun lining up local merchants for the new space. Parking, a long-standing problem of the Variety, will finally be solved with a large lot slated to open across the street. Valet will be available on event nights.

### Grand Beginnings

The groundwork for The Variety began in April of 1927 when several local theater firms from Mansfield, Akron and Cleveland, merged to create The Variety Amusement Co. that sought to expand in the Cleveland market and create an

operations base.

Variety Amusement Co., owned locally by Sam Stecker, Meyer Fine, and Abe Kramer, purchased all the land between West 118th and West 119th on Lorain Avenue. They commissioned a local architect, Nicola Petti, to build the massive theater complex, naming it after their newly formed regional powerhouse. The Variety Theater complex was born.

Petti, who immigrated to the U.S. from Italy at the age of four, constructed the poured concrete and brick structure. The block-long two-story building included 10 connected storefronts and 12 apartments on the second floor. It cost \$225,000 to complete.

The brick and gray concrete hid the Spanish Gothic-inspired interior decor into which Petti poured his enthusiasm. Rich, vivid yellows and reds juxtapose the cream white raised moldings. High stylized archways adorn either side of the mixed-use play house, and the ornate ceiling and fine woodworking appealing to Sunday services rather than a Paramount picture.

Other local theaters designed by Petti are the Cedar-Lee Theater at 2177 Lee Road and the LaSalle Theatre at 819 East 185th Street.

## Lady Luck creates its own atmosphere at W. 42<sup>nd</sup> & Lorain Avenue

by Sean Dobrzeniecki

The corner of Lorain Avenue and West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street has become a little busier since June, when Lady Luck's opened in the space previously home to Morrison Dance, attracting a loyal clientele to the neighborhood.

Sarah Morrison opened her dance studio in 2002. After years of success, it eventually closed-down, and Mike George bought the building in April, 2015.

There are six barber shops within a half mile of this location, including a barbers' college. With all-of-these barbers in the area, there are just a few hair salons serving women, so the new enterprise fills a niche.

George considered many different options for the property. He asked himself what would do well in this narrow building. Finally, towards the end of 2015, he decided it would be Lady Luck's Hair Parlor.

"There are plenty of barbers in the area," George said. "Women needed a place to get their hair done as well."

The building has an interesting history. George said engineers thought the structure was built sometime around 1880. Back in

1961, Debreck's Restaurant, popular for its delicious Hungarian food, was located in the building.

"There was an old grease trap in the basement and the sign out front was badly faded when we tore it off, but I could make out the letters 'Hungarian Restaurant,'" George said.

In the eighties, it was a plumbing store, then became a residence in the nineties. Morrison bought the building in 2001.

Construction started last spring. The front of the building was replaced with all glass, giving people, walking and driving by, a clear view of what was going on inside. By June, the salon was open for business.

Rebecca Ford took charge of the salon. She is a well-known stylist in the area and has many clients who have followed her to the new location, but Ford said the opening of the salon was very hectic at times.

"When we first opened, there was still a ton of construction being done," Ford said. "There were some days our phone lines would go offline and there was no way for anyone to reach us."

Walking into the salon, you can tell it used to be a dance studio. The hardwood floors are slick and, with the trendy music playing in the background, most people might feel like busting a few moves. The walls are painted a dark red, complimented with dim lighting that gives the salon a "cool" look. There are off-colored, bright, and very comfortable chairs in the waiting area. The chairs that you sit in when getting your hair done are black leather, and just as comfortable. Neumarker knew what she was doing when she set up the design.

"The atmosphere that Bec has created at Lady Luck's is unmatched," according to Emma May, a client of Ford's. "I've been going to Bec for a few years now and wouldn't dream of going to anyone else."

Although this was most certainly targeted for women in the area, that does not keep men from stopping in for a new hairdo.

"I met Bec randomly when I called for a haircut at another salon," Jon Dilley said. "She took the time to help me find a style and is super nice as well. Naturally, when she opened her own place, I followed."

The Variety Theater had a single screen designed for a dual-purpose playhouse and movie theater. The original structure could host 1,900 Clevelanders, 1,550 on the floor level and another 350 on a second story balcony. An orchestra pit, now covered, lay just before the stage and a large single projection screen.

Three small dressing rooms were installed behind the stage to accommodate traveling vaudeville acts.

The lobby, as ornate as the theater itself, featured beautiful cut glass chandeliers and light fixtures that have survived intact.

Warner Brothers purchased the theater from Variety Amusement in 1929 and operated it until 1954. Local real estate developers, Edward and William Wargo of Wargo Realty, bought the Variety Theater from Warner Brothers for \$500,000. The deal was one of the largest transactions involving theatrical property after the Great Depression and made headlines in local newspapers.

The Wargos had developed a regional theater division and looked to modernize and further expand their holdings.

Baby Boomer's loved the neighborhood theater complex, and the Sunday matinees were the place to be. With 3-D films and the monster movie pandemic sweeping America in the 1950s, the Variety entered a golden age of sell-out, standing room only shows. In 1956 tickets cost 10 cents for kids, 25 cents for teens and 50 cents for adults, easily affordable for the neighborhood.

Gail Peterson grew up in Jefferson in the late 40's and remembers the Variety as the "fancy" theater, with deep red carpet and polished brass railings. Sneaking off alone or accompanied by an older sibling, she would make her way down Lorain for an afternoon at the Variety. "My mom had me carry a copy of my birth certificate 'cause I looked older and had trouble getting in for a dime," said Peterson.

Plays performed at the Variety during the late golden years capitalized on recreations of favorite TV shows as live staged events.

### From Second-Run to Heavy Metal

By the 1970's, The Variety, like much of Cleveland, embarked on a slow and colorful decline. West Park, situated in the Jefferson neighborhood, was a 12.5 square mile city, and the last independent city to be annexed by Cleveland, losing its independence Jan. 1, 1923.

The Jefferson neighborhood's population peaked in 1970 at 25,609. Manufacturing was on the decline, and the working-class neighborhood was in flight mode as Clevelanders sought to move south or west to follow the job trends. As job prospects dwindled, so did extra spending money. Large theaters, like Variety, became afterthoughts.

Russel Koz took over ownership of the Variety in 1976 at a time when many playhouses were falling victim to downturns, most becoming redeveloped or demolished. Koz liked the building, and though lacking training in the theater industry, he began showing second-run flicks throughout the late 1970's and early 80's.

Maintenance costs kept rising, and Koz began having trouble finding tenants and residents as well as attraction movie patrons. He lobbied the city to build a parking lot to no avail.

With limited options and dwindling funds, a desperate Koz opened the Variety up to a more musically focused and energetic audience. From July, 1984 to April, 1986, the old film house found new life as a concert venue.

The aging venue and gothic motif were a perfect fit for two developing rock genres: Punk and Heavy Metal. These two styles focused on heavy speed-laden rhythms and a refusal of contemporary American idealism. This rejection and disaffection resounded with the Cleveland youth and Koz partnered with local producers to capitalize on the trend, positioning Variety to become the edgiest concert venue in town.

In its two-year run, the Variety played host to R.E.M., INXS, Stevie

Ray Vaughn, Metallica, Slayer and an infamous Motorhead concert. On Dec. 2 1984, Motorhead played at the packed Variety Theater. Midway through the aggressive set, Motorhead made history by reaching 130 decibels, which broke the volume mark previously held by the Who in 1976. The Variety paid the price for its bit in history when the old theater began to fall apart while they played. The crumbling ceiling began to break off and fall on the audience and during the final song, nervous management pulled the plug and Motorhead was left apologizing to stunned and likely deaf fans.

Crumbling ceilings and record-breaking noises made headlines in both the United Kingdom (Motorhead's home country) and the United States. Sour relations developed between the small neighborhood community and the venue. Multiple noise complaints filed by residents against Koz closed the doors for good.

The last gasps of the Variety were varied and unsuccessful. The building was leased from Koz by the Freedom Academy, a conservative private school which was known for helping Cleveland families avoid public school desegregation, to be used for performances. The Freedom Academy let their buy option lapse in 1987. The last tenant was a wrestling gym known as the Cleveland Wrestleplex, which held local acts seeking to break into the wrestling entertainment industry which was booming at the time.

The Variety, stripped of its marquee, was sold by Koz's wife to a local development group that rented out the storefronts and apartments but because of mounting disrepair and lack of funds, the theater has remained vacant since 1988.

### New Beginnings

Today's neighborhood has a different vibe since the Variety shut its doors. The population decline has mostly subsided, and wages have stabilized. A rebound appears imminent, and the Variety plans assume its role as the neighborhood engine. Whether the Variety can serve the purpose of its new community and assume a vibrant leadership position remains to be seen.

Over 10 years of thought and passion have been poured into the vacant structure from Brady, West-town Development, Friends of the Variety Theater and neighborhood residents.

Now it's time to light the lights and enjoy the show.



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## Many Clevelanders share memories of gatherings at Kiefer's Tavern

by Dominick Ferlito

An old sign, from a bygone era, still hangs on the pre-WWI red-brick building on the corner of W. 26th Street and Detroit Avenue. The sign, advertising Kiefer's Tavern, is a survivor in the Ohio City district that has experienced a brilliant renaissance in the past 10 years.

Kiefer's closed in 1991, but their sign remains a beacon to Cleveland's old-timers, who remember the days of city elites and celebrities mingling over weinerschnitzel and cocktails. The restaurant was a staple in the neighborhood, serving classic German food and live music to nearly 1,000 patrons a day during its' peak.

The Seymour Block Building, which housed Kiefer's for nearly 55 years, has changed hands and businesses several times since the iconic restaurant closed its doors for the last time. Most recently, The Snavely Group purchased most of the buildings on the block of Detroit and W. 25th Street, and a new art gallery opened up where Kiefer's once served customers.

The Cleveland Collection art gallery holds showings every few months, featuring pieces created by local artists. The Cleveland Collection opened in November, 2015, and has been hosting exhibitions and discussions with local creatives ever since.

The gallery hosted a holiday show and sale that featured more than 50 pieces of art, all from local artists on November 25th. The Cleveland Collection hopes to be "community centric" and will host more discussions with exhibitors in

the future.

Before the art gallery, the Seymour Block building housed government offices and travel agencies, but it is Kiefer's that remains the most well-known tenant.

Kiefer's history can be traced back to 1936, when the Kiefer's served food from a stand at the Great Lakes Exposition. Their beer-and-bratwurst stand was such a success that Anna and William decided to open a restaurant. They settled on a location just south of The Angle, an Irish neighborhood most well-known for St. Malachi Church and boxing gyms.

The Kiefer's opened Schwarzwald in 1937, but decided to change the name to Kiefer's once World War II started and the German name became unpopular. William baked and prepared meats and Anna cooked and ran the business. Otto Thun and his band provided diners with entertaining music to dance and sing-along to, eventually garnering so much interest that the music was broadcast live across the country.

Kiefer's quickly became a well-known spot for Cleveland's politicians, businessmen, and various different clubs. They came for the famous weinerschnitzel, but stayed for the club atmosphere and the socializing. What once started as a small restaurant, serving 50 patrons a day, became the most popular German restaurant in Cleveland expanding twice over 20 years.

On February 15, 1957, though, tragedy struck Kiefer's—a lighting fixture and portions of the false ceiling crashed down onto tables while more than 100 diners were in the



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, December 20, 2016; The former home of Kiefer's Tavern at W. 26th and Detroit Avenue.

restaurant. Six people sustained minor injuries in the accident and Kiefer's had to close for two weeks for an investigation and repairs. The accident made news and affected business, even after repairs were made.

William and Anna kept the business for two more years, but eventually decided to sell to a syndicate headed by Jack and Joseph Klingbeil who continued the traditions of the landmark tavern.

Eventually business bounced back. Clevelanders couldn't resist the home-style German food and the classic nightlife that Kiefer's provided. Due to its proximity to downtown, the restaurant once again became a lunchtime staple

for businessmen and women. The Klingbeils brought in modern musical acts from around the city to draw more of a crowd for the weekend evenings.

For 16 years, the Klingbeil brothers successfully ran Kiefer's, returning it to the glory that was so familiar to Anna and William. By 1976, however, the tavern had become stale and needed a renovation and upgrades that the brothers were uncomfortable making, so they sold to a conglomerate headed by County Treasurer Francis E. Gaul.

Gaul saw the need for change

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and immediately started rebranding the business as a German-Irish fusion, capitalizing on the area's

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## COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

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### TAXES

**FREE TAX PREPARATION** provided at Westshore Neighborhood Family Service Center by Cuyahoga County and the Cuyahoga Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. Westshore NFSC is located at 9830 Lorain Ave. To schedule an appointment go online to [www.211oh.org](http://www.211oh.org) or call 211/United Way. Returns will be prepared

and filed by IRS certified tax-preparers and completed while the tax-payer waits. All returns will be screened for eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit. To qualify, tax-payers must have a 2016 earned income less than \$53,930, and must be filing a simple return. Tax-payers should remember to bring: Current photo I.D., Social Security cards for each adult and child on the return, W2 and 1099 income statements, child care expense statement and provider's Tax I.D. Number, Form 1099-INT for any checking or savings accounts as well as bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit. If the taxpayer purchased health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, bring 1099 tax credit from health insurance company. Community members who want to volunteer to prepare taxes can register online at [www.refundohio.org](http://www.refundohio.org). Free training is available to become an IRS certified tax preparer. For more information, please visit [www.refundohio.org](http://www.refundohio.org) or [www.cjfs.cuyahogacounty.us](http://www.cjfs.cuyahogacounty.us)

### WASTE COLLECTION

**MONDAY JANUARY 16, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY** means waste collection will be delayed one day all week, Tuesday to Saturday.

**BULK ITEM PICKUP** is now the 2nd week of the month. You may set out a limit of 3 bulk items 9 appliances, tables, chairs, mattresses and box springs, couches, other furniture, and up to 4 tires. If you need to set out bulk items other than your weekly pick-up in the 2nd week of the month, you MUST call 216/664-3711 to schedule a pick-up.

**YEAR ROUND COMPUTER/CELLPHONE DROP OFF** at 3727 Ridge Rd or 5600 Carnegie, 9 am – 3 pm. **YEAR ROUND SHREDDING** at 5600 Carnegie, 9 am – 3 pm.

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE** on the First Friday of each month. No latex paint. *Do not leave these items at drop off boxes: they must be taken to the service garages on the designated dates.* For more information on recycling and waste disposal, visit <http://www.clevelandoh.gov/CityofCleveland/Home/Government/CityAgencies/ParksRecreationandProperties/Waste/Cleveland%20Recycles%21/Recycling%20and%20Waste%20Disposal%20Guide>

## KIEFER'S TAVERN

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ethnic background and Cleveland's love of St. Patrick's Day.

Gaul razed several buildings behind the tavern and installed a new parking lot that could accommodate 100 cars and began giving the business-front a facelift. Inside, the restaurant was updated, but kept the same character that customers had been so fond of for the past 40 years.

Like the interior, the menu was updated, but much of it stayed the same. "The recipes never changed, from the days of Bill and Anna Kiefer to when we closed the door," Gaul's son-in-law, Joe Wallison said in an interview with *Cleveland Magazine*. No one could come up with recipes better than Anna, so they stayed the same.

"We'd be crazy to change the menu. We'll keep the schnitzel, pig's knuckles and sausages but we'll also offer salads and weight watcher specials to attract that part of the luncheon crowd that doesn't want dumplings," Gaul said when he took over the kitchen in 1977.

Gaul was drawn to Kiefer's for a number of reasons, but he always said that it was the welcoming atmosphere that made him want to own the restaurant. "I guess my involvement in the project is due to romanticism. I used to work on the beer trucks that delivered to Kiefer's. Since then, I became a customer. Always, the quality of atmosphere appealed to me," Gaul said when he purchased the business.

Gaul did everything he could to drum up business. He brought back big-band performers, and even started broadcasting from the restaurant, like Otto Thun had done so many years earlier. Kiefer's also bought a shuttle bus, and started providing a shuttle between downtown and Ohio City during the weekday lunch hours.

As Cleveland started changing, Gaul kept the business alive through the seventies and eighties, with Kiefer's as an

icon of the ethnic mixing pot that Cleveland is. In 1990, however, tides turned. When the city began work on the old Main St. Bridge and a recession hit Cleveland, the business began to suffer. People had a harder time crossing the river to grab lunch and nightlife in Ohio City began to dwindle.

Kiefer's tried to survive the year and half construction project, but Gaul eventually had to pull the plug before construction crews finished. The restaurant closed its doors for the final time in the summer 1991.

To this day, people still remember the days when Kiefer's was the place to be seen. Polly Shilander, a retired government employee, still remembers going to Kiefer's for business lunches and dancing on the weekends. "You never knew who was going to be there. Some nights you'd see a famous actor, other nights you'd see Danny Greene. People went there to be seen," Shilander said. "It was a big deal if you were going to Kiefer's on a Saturday night."

Senior citizens throughout Cleveland still talk about Kiefer's with a fond memory. They remember the world-famous schnitzel and the raucous big-bands. They remember the iconic interior that was replaced by stark white walls when The Cleveland Collection moved in.

The Cleveland Collection opened November, 2015 and hosts works by local artists. Billy Delfs, a spokesman for the Cleveland Collection said, "The gallery is open when we have openings for shows, four times a year at-the-moment."

Pete Snavely, of the Snavely Group, has taken care of changes in the Seymour Block building since the company bought it in early 2016. Most recently, the company gave the ground floor of the building a paint-job and is planning to turn the upper levels into low-rent housing.

The Snavely Group also broke ground across the street for a new mixed-use complex in October. The Detroit corridor will once again have buildings lining both sides of the street, as it did so many years ago.

The Snavely Group is doing what they can to modernize corner and draw more outsiders into the area—but the old Kiefer's sign still hangs as a landmark, sparking memories of "the good old days" for so many Cleveland residents and bridging the gap between new and old.



PHOTO BY TED LOBAUGH

Saturday, December 3, 2016, Wintertide at Gordon Square, Carriage Rides at W. 67<sup>th</sup> and Detroit: Wintertide guests enjoy a carriage ride courtesy of Shamrock Carriages owned by Pete Leneghan of Stone Mad Irish Pub on W. 65<sup>th</sup> Street. Guests were greeted by Santa (Torrance Gamble) as they gathered to wait for the two horse drawn carriages driven by Jimmy "Bags" Coppola and Jacob Garrett.

## CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM POLICIES

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Mental Health Response Advisory Committee, the Cleveland Division of Police revised its policies on how to respond to mental health crises in their entirety.

Dr. Dupont explained that under the new policy, specially trained Crisis Intervention Team police officers will become advocates for individuals in crisis when they de-

termine that treatment makes much more sense than jail. He indicated that in situations where treatment is pursued rather than jail, individuals experiencing a crisis involving a serious mental illness such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, major depression or addiction are much more likely to stay in treatment and receive a better continuity of care. Dr. Dupont said that the Crisis Inter-

vention Team can make a "positive impact – a big difference in a short time."

Dr. Dupont outlined several unique elements of Cleveland's new policy recommended by the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) set up with the help of the Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County. He said the policy puts the needs of the individual first while focusing on safety for all involved in the interaction – the person in crisis, community members and the responding police officer. The tone of the interaction is changed by the policy, he said, with Crisis Intervention Team officer seeking to help the person in need. Cleveland has also developed an age specific policy to respond appropriately to juveniles in crisis. Also, there is flexibility in the way persons in crisis are transported to needed services, said Dupont. Another provision of the new policy mandates that police cannot resort to use of force just for expediency.

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Mental Health Court Judge Hollie Gallagher, who serves as Co-Chair of the MHRAC Policy Committee, noted the participation of the Cleveland Division of Police, the City of Cleveland, Community Advocates for the Mentally Ill, the legal community, the United States Department of Justice and members of the Monitoring Team in helping to develop the policy recommendations.

Judge Gallagher explained some of the goals of Crisis Intervention Team training of Cleveland Police Officers. She said officers training will help them to de-escalate crisis situations, increase the understanding of police about persons experiencing a crisis and improve trust

between the responding officer and the person in crisis. Judge Gallagher said that in developing the policy, the MHRAC Policy Committee looked at programs in 19 other cities and came up with a policy that is unique to Cleveland.

Gallagher said the committee incorporated comments from community members made during a public comment session in the spring. She said community members called for police officers to de-escalate situations – using as little force as possible. Respond to individuals in crisis in a professional manner. They expected officers to show compassion and respect to individuals in crisis and avoid stigmatization. They did not want Law Enforcement Officers to be judgmental, and wanted them to respect the human dignity of the person experiencing a crisis. Gallagher reported that community members asked that the police officers take their time in these situations, be less aggressive and identify themselves as Crisis Intervention Team officers.

Cleveland Division of Police Deputy Chief Joellen O' Neill said the policies governing the handling of the Mentally Ill and Crisis Intervention will be completely new when the proposed policies are approved. She said a veteran police officer, Captain James Purcell has been named as the Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator. She said, Captain Purcell, in addition to 28 years in the Cleveland Division of Police, has a degree in psychology and prior to becoming a police officer, worked at the mental health agency, Bridgeway. Deputy Chief O' Neill said Captain Purcell will be charged with staffing enough CIT officers to cover the city of Cleveland 24 hours a day, seven days a week. She said CIT officers will be responsible for deciding whether to take an individual to a hospital or to jail. She said CIT officers will have a stat sheet to fill out to document every interaction with a Mental Health Consumer.

Crisis Intervention Team Program Officer Carole Ballard, a member of the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County,

said that Crisis Intervention Team members and individuals and family member involved in a mental health crisis need to learn to trust one another. She said they want the same outcome. She said safety, respect and trust are key elements of the new policy. Ballard noted the transparency in the new policy – saying it is a work in progress with information being exchanged between law enforcement and the treatment community to help continually improve the program. She noted one effort that involves creating a treatment card for each police district with telephone numbers and addresses of mental health services and treatment programs available in each district.

At the December 13 forum at Urban Community School, one of two public forums held on the new policies, residents and stakeholders offered suggestions to incorporate in the policies. They suggested that Crisis Intervention Teams have the capability of sending CIT members to the scene when necessary that can address unique bilingual, cultural or gender sensitivities or needs of the person experiencing a mental health crisis. They suggested that a Continuing Education Unit course be developed for behavioral health professionals that puts them through the same CIT training that police officers experience so they are aware of what police officers are equipped to do in a crisis. Members of the Mobile Crisis Unit that travel with Second District CIT officers to the scene of a mental health crisis, suggested the expansion of that program to the entire City of Cleveland.

Another suggestion was that CIT officers have a bigger badge or a different color shirt to make sure they are clearly identifiable in a crisis. Other suggestions involved the communication of helpful information by dispatchers about whether family members or friends will be of help or hindrance in a crisis. A concern was expressed about what happens when a situation has already escalated before the CIT officers have arrived, and how those officers communicate with officers on the scene to avoid further escalation.

Concern was expressed that CIT officers have quarterly debriefing sessions and other breaks to avoid getting burned out.

## WEST SIDE MARKET

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