



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
 Tuesday, February 21, 2017, Cuyahoga County Council Meeting, 2079 East 9th Street: Cuyahoga County Council President Dan Brady presides over the meeting while members of Greater Cleveland Congregations testify.

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Greater Cleveland Congregations' campaign sheds light on deal for expansion of Quicken Loans Arena

by Chuck Hoven

Greater Cleveland Congregations' campaign to create a Community Equity Fund with a dollar to dollar match of any new public money pledged to upgrade Quicken Loans Arena (The Q), has brought increased public scrutiny to the proposal to expand the arena. The testimony, at the February 21st

meeting at the Cuyahoga County Council, revealed the scope of the deal. Close examination of the details reveals the project is a bad deal for Cuyahoga County and Cleveland residents. It also would hurt the bottom line of the restaurants and bars that now benefit from the crowds attracted to events at The Quicken Loans Arena.

The proposed expansion would result in the Cavs agreeing to extend their lease from 2027 to 2034--adding a guaranteed seven more years to the Cavaliers' stay in Cleveland. The total cost of the proposal is projected at \$282 million with the Cavs paying \$122 million of that in the form of increased rent. The rest of the funding would come from various pots of public dollars. Cuyahoga County would pledge its sales tax revenue as security for the bonds issued.

COMMENTARY

The plan, as described in testimony by Cavs CEO Len Komoroski before Cuyahoga County Council is designed to increase the square footage of The Q from 94,000 square feet to 150,000 square feet. The purpose is to allow the Cavs to host more pre-game and post-game events as well as being more competitive in attracting new events to The Q. Komoroski urged the County Council to act soon so the Cavs will have the project complete in time to host the NBA All Star weekend in 2020. Although the refurbished facility will have more square footage, it will have less seats for games and events. Seating capacity will be reduced from 20,562 to 19,700.

continued on page 6

City Club speaker examines uncertain future for Medicaid

Speaking at the City Club on February 7th, Dr. Benjamin Sommers, a health economist and physician who studies health policy for vulnerable populations, shared his thoughts in a talk titled "Medicaid and Health Reform -- past, present and uncertain future."

Dr. Sommers said that while



PHOTO BY STEVE WAGNER

Cleveland Public Theatre's 2016-2017 Nord Family Foundation Playwright Fellows and Kulas Theatre Composer Fellows: Pictured (from left): Raymond Bobgan (CPT Executive Artistic Director), Caitlin Lewins, Melissa T. Crum, Eric Coble, Cassandra West, Eric Gonzalez and Matt Ryals. The Nord Family Foundation Playwright Fellows developing new plays during their fellowship are: Eric Coble, Melissa Therese Crum, Caitlin Lewins, and Cassandra West. The Kulas Theatre Composer fellows are: Matthew Ryals and Eric M. C. Gonzalez.

President Donald Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress have pledged to repeal the Affordable Care Act, they don't have the required 60 votes in the Senate to do an outright repeal. However, they do have the votes to take away many of the funding mechanism for the Affordable Care Act through the

budget reconciliation process.

This could mean a fundamental shift in how Medicaid is paid for and operates, said Dr. Sommers. He noted that currently States, based on their relative wealth, are reimbursed for Medicaid expenses from the federal government anywhere

continued on page 6



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, February 3, 2017, Demonstration denouncing President Donald Trump's Executive Orders on Immigration, Market Square Park, W. 25th and Lorain Ave: A large crowd of demonstrators gathered at Market Square before marching downtown to Cleveland City Hall. Represented at the demonstration were members of Cleveland Jobs with Justice; Council on American Islamic Relations, Cleveland Office; DreamActivist Ohio; Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network; InterReligious Task Force on Central America and Colombia; Jewish Voice for Peace; Lorain Ohio Immigrant Rights Association; Ohio's Voice; Palestine Right to Return Coalition; Peace in the Hood; Refugee Service Collaborative of Greater Cleveland and others.

Project 29 and the future of Hingetown

by Bruce Grossman

In the end, it was just about a building. I am talking about the December 12 meeting at Franklin Circle Church where I heard about Project 29 and the future of "Hingetown", the area around Detroit and 28th and 29th Streets. But it was also about dreams and desires, which is to say, it was a real estate developer's sales presentation.

COMMENTARY

It was also a true neighborhood meeting of about sixty well-to-do people. Introductions were unnecessary as everybody seemed to know everybody else and everybody was on a first name basis. It was definitely-- the In Crowd of North of Lorain.

The consortium of real estate developers was there, as was a cadre from Ohio City Incorporated. But there was only one speaker, and

that was Graham Veysey, now prominent Clevelander by way of Shaker Heights and Bates College and recent Congressional candidate and Man Can wine entrepreneur.

I like Graham-- maybe because I view him as an underdog in this city, where only 16% are college educated and the people I know declare proudly that they haven't read a book in twenty years. Being featured in Vanity Fair magazine certainly doesn't help his case among the envious strivers. Plus, I feel he is sincere about doing well by himself by doing good for others.

Graham took the stage dressed in a red plaid shirt and blue jeans, and, if you got a close look you might have noticed, he was also wearing a fashionable liberal "awareness safety pin", indicating that marginalized people "can feel safe with him" in

continued on page 6



PHOTO BY JOE NARKIN

Friday, January 27, 2017; Celebration of installation of new crosswalk at W. 67th and Lorain, H. Barbara Booker School, 2121 W. 67th Street: After several near misses and one child hit by a car, parent leaders at West Side Community House organized an effort to get the crosswalk. Following the dedication of the new crosswalk members of the West Side Community House and students from H. Barbara Booker celebrate with Ward 15 Councilman Matt Zone. Left to Right are: Donniecia Worley, Paloma Sofia Baig, Ward 15 Councilman Matt Zone, De'lijah Brantley, Anthoni Goodson and West Side Community House Executive Director Dawn Kolograf.

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 Court Community Service.....771-2222
 Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus www.cuycpc.org
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 Disability Rights Ohio 800-282-9181
 TTY 800-858-3542
- Earth Day Coalition281-6468
 Empowering & Strengthening Ohio's People.
 ESOP(877) 731-3767
 Enterprise 631-0280
 Environmental Health Watch.....961-4646
 Fair Housing Office (City of Cleveland).....664-2018
 Friends of Big Creek.....661-7706
 Global Cleveland 472-3282
 Greater Cleveland Community Shares.....361-9920
 Greater Cleveland Congregations 769-8732
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 Green Up Cleveland 309-1019
 Hispanic Alliance Inc..... 661-4249
 Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland.....619-8155
 Inter-Religious Task Force on Central Amer ...961-0003
 Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Biodiversity
 www.leapbio.org
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 Legal Aid Society.....687-1900
 League of Women's Voters of Cleveland.....781-8375
 Neighborhood Connections 361-0042
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 NEO CANDO <http://neocando.case.edu>
 N. Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality ... 651-2606
 Ohio Citizen Action.....861-5200
 Ohio Civil Rights Commission.....787-3150
 Ohio Patients Rights.....221-2724
 Organize! Ohio 651-2606
 Partnership for a Safer Cleveland.....523-1128
 Plain Press.....621-3060
 Policy Matters Ohio.....361-9801
 Public Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)....440-442-7297
 Saint Colman's Outreach Ministry.....651-0550
 Saint Vincent de Paul Society696-6525 x 3150
 Single-Payer Action Network Ohio.....736-4766
 Social Ventures Partners of Cleveland.....231-2300
 The Urban Barber Association (TUBA) 245-8822
 Universal Health Care Action Network 241-8422
 We Are the Uninsured.....281-8945 ext. 205
 West Side Family Resources Network ..771-7297 Ext. 4
 Women Speak Out for Peace & Justice.231-4245 ext. 2
 YWCA Greater Cleveland 881-6878

COMMUNITY CENTERS

- Arrupe Neighborhood Partnership Program.....961-1260
 Clark Recreation Center.....664-4657
 Cleveland Metroparks 635-3200
 Computer Lab961-9073 ext.215
 Cudell Recreation Center.....664-4137
 Cuyahoga Valley National Park330-657-2752
 Estabrook Recreation Center.....664-4149
 Family Ministry Center 398-8420
 Foundation Center 861-1933
 Franklin Circle Christian Church 781-8232
 Halloran Park Skating Rink 664-4187
 LGBT Community Center Greater Cleveland ..651-5428
www.lgbtcleveland.org
- May Dugan Center.....631-5800
 Merrick House771-5077
 Neighborhood Centers Association.....298-4440
 Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center651-8236
 Renee Jones Empowerment Center 651-9601
 St. Malachi Center.....771-3036
 St. Paul's Community Outreach Center 651-6250
 Salvation Army Ohio City Corps.....631-1515
 Salvation Army West Park Corps252-3593
 The Centers for Families and Children 651-2037
 Veterans Center - West.....440-845-5023
 West Side Catholic Center.....631-4741
 West Side Community House.....771-7297
 WSCH Family Resource Specialist 771-7297 ext. 340
 WSCH Family Wrap for Success 771-7297 ext. 340
 Zone Recreation Center.....664-3373

COMMUNITY GROUPS

- Bellaire-Puritas Development Corp.....671-2710
 Cleveland Council on World Affairs.....781-3730
 Cleveland EcoVillage961-4242 Ext. 227
 Gordon Square Farmers' Market..961-4242 Ext. 227
 Cleveland Neighborhood Progress.....830-2770
 Cleveland Plus www.clevelandplus.com
 Cleveland Public Radio, 90.3 F.M at 9:00 a.m. 578-0903
 Community Shares.....361-9920
 Cudell Improvement.....228-4383
 Detroit Shoreway Community Develop Org.....961-4242
 Friends of Clark Field310-6810
 Greater Cleveland Partnership 592-2376
 Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (LMM).....696-2715
 Community Re-Entry 696-2717
 Metro West Community Development Organization
961-9073
 Near West Recreation Center.....781-3222 ext.108
 Neighborhood Leadership Institute..... 812-8700
 North Coast District United Methodist Church. 441-4527
 Ohio City Bicycle Co-op.....830-COOP (2667)
 Ohio City Inc781-3222
 Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp...459-1000

- Ohio Guidestones440/260-8069
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 Urban League.....622-0999
 Vocational Guidance Services.....431-7800
 Westside Catholic Center.....631-4741 ext. 167
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- American Indian Movement of Ohio.....533-9443
 Arab American Community Center for Economic
 & Social Services (ACCESS-Ohio).....252-2900
 Asian Services in Action 881-0330
 Asociación Hispania Evangelica
 de Lideres y Pastores (HELP).....961-2100
 Cleveland State University (CSU) Office of
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 El Barrio Workforce Center 325-WORK
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 Hispanic Business Center 281-4422
 Hispanic Senior Center.....631-3599
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 Irish American Archives Society 941-5727
 Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage.....593-0575
 Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition 295-0283
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 Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center.....651-8236
 Ohio Latin Affairs Commission.....614-466-8333
 San Lorenzo Club.....651-6540
 Spanish American Committee.....961-2100
 Ukrainian Museum-Archives.....781-4329
 United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland.....566-9263

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 Cleveland Food Bank Benefit Help Line.....738-2067
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 Ohio State Senators
 21st District: Sandra R. Williams 614-466-4857
 23rd District: Michael Skindell 614-466-5123

Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization celebrates annual meeting

Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization's 43rd annual meeting, on February 23rd at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School, featured speeches by Mark McDermott of Enterprise Community Partners and Ward 15 Councilman Matt Zone; a video tribute to the late Judge Raymond Pianka; the presentation of awards; and Board of Directors' election results.

In the Board of Directors' election: Eileen Kelly of St. Colman Church was re-elected to another term as an institutional representative. Teresa McCurry of New Beginnings Ministry was also elected to serve as an institutional representative. Commercial Representatives elected to the Board are: Anna Perlmutter of Cleveland Housing Solutions and Dean Van Farowe of Calvary Reformed Church. Moneeke Davis was elected as an At Large Representative.

Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization's board

Vice Chair Donna Gonyon was recognized by Board Chairman Joe Tegreene for her 30 years of service to the organization.

Abbe DeMaio received the Irene Catlin Award for her advocacy as a block club leader. Christopher Stocking received the Sustainability Award and the Sean Kilbane Award was given to Nikki Gelatta of the Gypsy Beans.

Community Spirit award recipients were: Howard Grandon, Calley Mersmann, Jeff Taylor, Scott Kroehle and Anna Perimutter, Terry Metter, and members of the Franklin Reading Garden Committee.

Neighborhood Improvement Awards were given to: Kyle Lawrence & KC Stilak, 1904 W. 58: Esbeey & Peter Madera, 7009 Colgate; Graham Binnig & Alana Jochum, 1947 W. 61; Howard Grandon, Cheerio Building/Banter; WIRE Properties & Diversified Contractors, 5908 Madison & 6018 Madison; and Astoria, 5417 Detroit.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, February 23, 2017, Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization 43rd Annual Meeting, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, 1355 W. 70th: Members of the Franklin Reading Garden Committee come up on the stage to receive a Community Spirit Award from State Senator Michael Skindell and State Representative Nickie Antonio.

Juvenile Court Judge urges more state dollars for residential treatment programs

Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Judge Michael Ryan urged Cuyahoga County residents to lobby their state legislature for an increase in funding for residential treatment programs for juveniles in Cuyahoga County.

Judge Ryan said if judges had the option of sending more of the youths they see in Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court to residential treatment programs, it would "diminish the number of kids out on the street."

Judge Ryan shared his thoughts in a small group break out, as part

of a January 31st Community Safety Meeting at OLA St. Joseph Center in the Tremont neighborhood. Ryan said there is "less money for residential treatment in Cuyahoga County than needed." He said the formula used by the Ohio Department of Youth Services to distribute funds, results in less funding in proportion to need for counties such as Cuyahoga with large populations.

Some of residential treatment programs the court he mentioned were: Ohio Guidestone, Cleveland Christian Home and Glenn Mills.

Judge Ryan singled out Glenn Mills for praise, estimating that 75% of youths assigned there don't return

to court. He said the program helps youths to work on obtaining their GED or graduating from high school.

Recommends Citizen Police Academy to bridge police/community gap

Regarding the photo exhibition put together by Al Wasco and featured in the February issue of the Plain Press--in 1999, I had an idea similar to Mr. Wasco's so I enrolled in Cleveland's Citizen Police Academy, hoping to encourage communication between police and minorities, outcasts, the psychiatrically-labeled and such. It was more than worthwhile. And I'll never forget Officer Jeff Stanczyk's

impassioned presentation.

LETTERS

I would recommend the academy to all, especially, these days, young African Americans and Native Americans. They, (and all families of victims of crimes in high places,) and the families of fallen officers, too - we all have more in common than at first meets the eye. Indeed, we must learn to stand together.
Hayes Rowan, WitnessTree
Ohio City

Black and Blue Side By Side

To the Editor:
I attended the discussion at the Black and Blue Side By Side exhibit which you pictured in the February 2017 Volume 44 edition of the Plain Press. Portraying black male subjects with police officers seems to be an attempt to gloss over the many instances of the crimes of racial profiling and killing of blacks by Cleveland Police over many decades.

As a white male, I am offended by these photographs and question the purpose of this exhibit. Photographed today - profiled tomorrow. What's the point?
Don Bryant, President, Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network

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2017 Plain Press

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Fire • Police • Medical.....911

Poison Control Center.....1-800-222-1222

Frontline Services 24/7 Crisis Hotline623-6888

RTA Police.....566-5163

United Way First Call for Help436-2000or.....211

ABUSE

Adult Abuse Hotline (Cuyahoga Cty DSAS).....420-6700

Child Abuse Hotline.....696-KIDS (5437)

Cleveland Animal Protective League.....771-4616

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center Hotline.....619-6194

Project Sex Trafficking Advocacy & Recovery Hotline855-431-STAR (7827)

Domestic Violence Outreach Group for Hispanic Women.....256-9396

Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center..651-8484

24-Hour Domestic Violence Helpline391-4357

24-Hour Family Helpline391-4357

Proyecto Latina229-2420 ext. 222

Long Term Care Ombudsman696-2719

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children800-843-5678

National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline888-3737-888

ARTS & CULTURE

Art House.....398-8556

Blank Canvas Theatre440-941-0458

Canvaswww.CanvasCLE.com

Cleveland Contra Dance330-626-2129

Cleveland Film Society.....623-3456

Cleveland International Film Festival623-3456

Cleveland Museum of Art.....421-7350

Cleveland Museum of Natural History231-4600

Cleveland Music School Settlement.....421-5806

Cleveland Public Theatre.....631-2727

Community Partnership for Arts & Culture.....575-0331

Cudell Fine Arts Center.....664-4183

Cuyahoga Arts and Culture515-8303

Cuyahoga County Archives443-7250

Dancing Wheels.....432-0306

Gordon Square Arts District961-4242 ext. 239

Joyful Noise.....267-1373

Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center894-5664

Les Délices302-8404

Literary Cleveland<http://www.litcleveland.org>

Liminis Theater687-0074

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)421-8671

Near West Theatre.....961-9750

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.....781-7625

78th Street Studioswww.78thstreetstudios.com

SPACES621-2314

Talespinners Children's Theater264-9680

Transformer Station.....938-5429

Western Reserve Historical Society721-5722

COMMUNITY ACTION

AIDS Task Force of Greater Cleveland.....621-0766

American Civil Liberties Union (Ohio).....472-2200

Big Creek Connects.....661-7706

Bike Cleveland245-3101

Building Hope in the City281-4673

Canalway Partners520-1825

CWRU Social Justice Institute368-2515

Center for Community Solutions.....781-2944

Citizens Climate Lobby, Ohio513-264-1079

Citizens of Cuy County Ombudsman's Office..696-2710

City Club of Cleveland621-0082

Cleveland Climate Watch631-3337

Cleveland Community Police Commission755-4272

Cleveland Diocese Social Action Office939-3843

Cleveland Environmental Action Network245-1073

Cleveland Jobs With Justice.....440-333-7007

Cleveland Mediation Center.....621-1919

Cleveland Peace Action264-3955

Clevelanders for Public Transit714-2164

Common Good Ohio795-5375

Community Animal Retention Effort (CARE) ..255-5012

Community Partners for Affordable Accessible

Roosevelt Post 58 Polish League/Amer. Vets..241-1788

Tremont West Development Corporation.....575-0920

Westown Community Development Corp.....941-9262

WVIZ ideastream916-6301

YWCA of Greater Cleveland.....881-6878

EDUCATION

After School Prevention Resources (LMM).....651-6841

America SCORES881-7988

Applewood/Children's Aid Society Campus ..521-6511

Applewood Jones Campus741-2241

ASC3 Connect Your Community Center548-8651

Breakthrough Schools367-5720

Broadway School of Music and the Arts.....641-0630

Case Western Reserve University368-2090

Catholic Diocese Education Office..696-6525 ext. 1172

Cleveland Metropolitan School District Board 838-0030

Cleveland Central Catholic High School.....441-4700

Cleveland Metropolitan School District838-0000

CMSD Volunteer Manager838-0337

Special Education Department838-7733

Office of Family/Community Engagement ..838-3223

Cleveland State University (CSU).....687-2000

Cleveland Teachers Union.....861-7676

Cleveland Transformation Alliance912-9600

College Now Greater Cleveland241-5587

Continuing Adult Education Program for Adults with MR/DD..(Catholic Diocese).....334-2963

Cuyahoga Community College987-2274

Tri-C Veterans Upward Bound987-4938

Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities241-8230

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C)987-4000

Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Educ Ctr.330-657-2796

Esperanza.....651-7178

Garrett Morgan School of Science281-6188

Gerson School694-7200

Great Lakes Science Museum.....694-2000

Hawken School Early Childhood Center...440/423-2950

Head Start (CEOGC).....589-9922

Horizon Education Centers584-5437

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Junior Achievement.....861-8080

Leadership Programs687-5497

Lincoln West High School631-1505

Max Hayes High School.....631-1528

Metro Catholic School.....281-4044 x 128

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Ohio School Boards Association800-589-OSBA

Options for Families and Youth.....267-7070

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Project: LEARN.....621-9483

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St. Augustine Learning Center.....781-5530

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St. Ignatius of Antioch School.....671-0535

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State Board of Career Colleges/Schools .614-466-2752

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EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING

AARP Foundation Senior Employment881-1155

Advanced Technology Center – Tri C.....987-0198

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14th District: Martin J. Sweeney	614-466-3350
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Community Relations Unit.....	623-5577
Police First District.....	623-5100
Police Second District.....	623-5200
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Prosecutor's Office (Cuyahoga County).....	443-7800
RTA Answer Line.....	621-9500
TDY (for hearing impaired).....	781-4271
RTA Paratransit.....	566-5124
Report "Crime Guns".....	241-8477
Social Security Administration.....	1-800-772-1213
.....	1-800-325-0778 (TTY)

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Center for Integrated Therapies.....	227-8668
Cleveland Sight Center.....	791-8118
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Grace Hospital.....	687-1500
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Lutheran Hospital Physicians Center.....	363-2119
McCafferty Health Center.....	957-4848
MetroHealth Medical Center.....	778-7800
MetroHealth Care Plus.....	216-957-2325
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Neighborhood Family Practice (Tremont)	334-2800
Neighborhood Family Prac.(Detroit SW)	961-2090
Neighborhood Family Practice (Puritas)	928-1950
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St. Augustine Health Campus	634-7400
St. Augustine Towers.....	634-7444
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Visiting Nurse Association.....	931-1300
William Patrick Day Early Childhood Center.....	736-2920

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Alzheimer's Association -Cleveland Area.....	721-8457
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MEDICAID

continued from page one

from 50 to 75%. Ohio's reimbursement is currently around 63%. For Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act the reimbursement is even more generous, starting at 100%, eventually going down to 90%.

According to Sommers, critics of this system say states don't have an incentive to cut costs because the federal reimbursement is so generous and the system lacks flexibility. Medicaid experts in states say they have plenty of incentive to cut costs, but would like to see more flexibility.

One alternative — the Ryan Plan — proposed by Republicans in Congress would replace the current Medicaid program with block grants to States. Dr. Sommers said this would most likely result in more flexibility for States but

they would get less money than now. Under the Ryan plan, funds for Medicaid expansion would also disappear. Over time, the block grant would not rise fast enough to keep up with the increase in health care cost, said Dr. Sommers. "It is really important not just how you set up a block grant, but 10 years from now, what does it look like?" said Dr. Sommers. He noted that health care costs always go up faster than inflation.

The Affordable Care Act has resulted in 20 million people having health care coverage that didn't previously have coverage. Realizing this, some Republican Governors that have expanded Medicaid coverage are now saying "not so fast." They say, you can't take away coverage from all these people without something to replace it, said Dr. Sommers.

Dr. Sommers then shared some results of studies showing how expanding coverage impacts population health.

He said the studies looked at two major expansions of coverage of low income parents, children and single adults before the arrival of the Affordable Care Act. The studies showed that the mortality rate declined for those getting health coverage. The declines in death rate occurred in areas that probably would respond to health care such as deaths due to heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and cancer. Also, Medicaid expansion recipients reported they felt better, they were more likely to say they could afford their health care and were more likely to have a primary care doctor.

Dr. Sommers said that, while it is a challenge to predict how many lives would be lost if the Affordable Care Act were to be repealed, the White House Council of Economic Advisors estimated in December of 2016 that 20 million people losing coverage would result in an increased mortality of 24,000 people. Dr.

Sommers said research shows having coverage saves lives.

During the early years of the Affordable Care Act, Dr. Sommers says another study compared health care for low income populations in three states. The three states: Kentucky which chose Medicaid Expansion, Arkansas which chose the Private Option (private insurance for those eligible for Medicaid expansion), and Texas which rejected the Medicaid Expansion. The study found those getting health insurance reported better physical and mental health and were more likely to get regular care for chronic conditions such as diabetes. They were also more likely to get blood tests to determine health risks. Whether the insurance was public or private made no difference in care.

Dr. Sommers says the Affordable Care Act raised more money through increased taxes and fees than it paid

out, so it has reduced the federal deficit. Medicaid expansion has had an economic impact on recipients. It has reduced the number of people whose medical bills have been sent to collection agencies. It has helped the finances of hospitals, and economists say it is likely it has some stimulus effect on the overall economy. Also under the Affordable Care Act a higher percentage of people have health care coverage than at any time in the history of the United States, said Dr. Sommers.

However, there is a cost. The Federal Government is paying more for health care. Dr. Sommers says it is a good investment which is saving peoples' lives. "It is not free but, it is an investment I believe is worth making," he said.

QUICKEN ARENA

continued from page one

Cuyahoga County Council member Jack Schron expressed concern that the County was being rushed to a decision to commit \$16 million from its general fund to the project. He noted the County Council will not learn until the end of June what impact the State of Ohio's two-year budget will have on the budgets of Cuyahoga County and the Regional Transit Authority. Schron also wondered if Cuyahoga County should be providing funds to allow The Q to be more competitive -- taking events and gatherings away from the Cuyahoga County funded hotel, convention center and Global Center for Health Innovation.

Gail Long said while she supported the demands of Greater Cleveland Congregations to create a Community Equity Fund, she does not support the use of public funds to support The Q. Long, who spent many years as Director of Merrick House, fighting to keep MetroHealth as a viable public hospital, spoke of the uncertainty of the future of Medicaid. She expressed concern about what Ohio and MetroHealth would do if Congress ends the Medicaid expansion that resulted from the Affordable Care Act. Long believes that MetroHealth's recent healthy revenue stream resulting from Medicaid expansion could disappear and the hospital may need help from Cuyahoga County to rebuild its facility. She also noted the aging Justice Center also in need of renovation or replacement.

Long's testimony brings to question the impact borrowing dollars for The Q will have on the long-term debt of Cuyahoga County and its ability to finance construction and rehabilitation of its own facilities such as the Justice Center and MetroHealth Medical Center. Even if Dan Gilbert agreed to pay 100% of the cost of his new larger space in increased rent, how would plugging County sales tax as security on the bonds impact Cuyahoga County's ability to borrow? How would it change the interest rate it would have to pay? What would this mean to the County's ability to go forward with other construction projects?

Cuyahoga County Council members also wondered what would happen to The Q after 2034. It was clear from testimony given to County Council that The Q would be 40 years old at that time and the Cavaliers owners would consider it as having reached the limits of its ability to compete with newer facilities in other cities. The team owners would most likely be asking for a new \$600 million to \$1 billion facility here or in some other city that would come up with a better deal.

Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC), by asking for a dollar to dollar match of any public money given to the Cavaliers for the renovation of the Quicken Loans Arena, hopes to focus Cuyahoga County Council's attention on the glaring needs of Cleveland's neighborhoods. Greater Cleveland Congregations' efforts have forced the County Council to slow the mad rush to approve the proposal created by the Cavalier's owner Dan Gilbert and his staff along with the County's own legal and financial counselors.

The GCC would like to see billionaire Cavs owner Gilbert take the lead in helping to create the fund by making a large donation to the Community Equity Fund. Pastor Richard Gibson of Elizabeth Baptist Church outlined some goals for the fund including building two mental health facilities—one on the East Side and one on the West Side; dollars for job creation and capital projects in the neighborhoods. Will Burge of 1100 AM radio urged the County Council to take the initiative to set up a meeting with Cavalier's owner Dan Gilbert, saying "I know Dan Gilbert will want to help. It is not Dan's job. It is your job to get Dan to the table. Do your job, don't drop the ball."

HINGETOWN

continued from page one

what some expect to be a Trump inspired backlash of intolerance.

The meeting was important to achieve buy-in and validation for a proposed eleven floor, market-rate (middle class "from granite top to butcher block") apartment building to be built in the heart of Hingetown. Although plans are not "finalized", groundbreaking is scheduled to begin in October. No objection is anticipated from "the usual block-club process".

Concerns were raised about whether existing infrastructure could support such a high population density structure but the meeting was assured that Detroit Road has already accommodated a much larger population before deindustrialization, and that toilets will still flush and electricity will still flow. Further, the building will not be a monolith, and will be interesting aesthetically. An artist's rendition of the building showed a facade somewhat like a checkerboard of black and white building blocks. (Mr. Veysey declined to provide that visual for this publication because the process

is still ongoing.) And it was asserted that such a tall building will add interest to the skyline as well as providing the population density necessary to support shops and a walkable neighborhood. Issues like shadows and wind were not raised. There will be 223 underground parking spaces for 171 units. The artist's rendition showed a lawn on the roof.

But it was also about buy-in and validation for the Developers' Vision for A Walkable Neighborhood. "Not 'Everywhere U.S.A.'-- 'Not Cookie Cutter'-- 'Toronto, Montreal, Minneapolis'-- 'Not Uptown's Back Alley'-- 'Activity'-- again, 'Toronto, Montreal, Minneapolis'-- and an unintended laugh with 'I hate Crocker Park (pause). I say that respectfully.'"

I don't know what "Toronto, Montreal and Minneapolis" means, but I never really knew what Ohio City as the "New Brooklyn" meant either. But the territory has been marked by a new graffiti, if you will-- pop art murals in anticipation of a new gang, a gang of achievement oriented young professionals.

Actually, I like that idea. Especially considering that what is now branded "Hingetown" was formerly, by all accounts, just a vice district.

So, I don't believe the developers are trying to sell us "Florida Real Estate", nor do I believe it's all just hype. But there is hype, and it's good to know what the hype is. The theoretical underpinnings are extolled in Jeff Speck's book, "Walkable City", Farrar, Struass and Giroux (paperback 2013). It is interesting that Mr. Speck begins his book with somewhat of an apology: "The planners were so wrong for so many years that now that they are mostly right, they are mostly ignored" (p. 3), citing the example of "... the famous 'Five B's' of the eighties-- bricks, banners, bandstands, bollards, and berms-- that now grace many an abandoned downtown." (p. 10)

But Mr. Speck and the developers are trying to sell us a new small great narrative of utopia, of establishing a true community, if not a worker's paradise, where neighbors will know neighbors, walking and good health will abound, and mostly Mother Earth, Gaia, will be saved from the ravages of the automobile. But I for one am holding onto my wallet, at least until Market Square here in Ohio City more resembles James Rouse's "Festival Marketplace", and see the Collinwood economic renaissance achieved

by Richard Florida's tipping point of a concentration of artists, immigrants, and gays.

So, I am all for Hingetown as a Jeff Speck "walkable city" of density, pedestrians, shops, parks, bikes, activity and involvement. But I also remember that the dark empire of suburbia was in its time a developers' heaven on earth saving us from the overcrowding, noise, dirt, disease, air pollution and crime of the inner city, where neighbors will know neighbors and children will be safe and nurtured in a "green zone".

So, read Mr. Speck's book, and learn what the new game plan is. Especially interesting is his chapter on Donald Shoup, and the "high cost of free parking and parking lots", since parking seems to be such a hot topic here, from the closing of the Loren Naji Studio, to the future of the West Side Market. Perhaps Ohio City's plans are more the Shopist ideological fashion of today than practical good business. But as Mr. Speck points out, if parking requirements are waived for new businesses, at least they should pay a proper fee for these requirements being waived, fees that can go to support reasonable public lots.

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 Cleveland Furniture Bank 459-2265
 Cleveland Housing Network.....574-7100
 Cleveland Municipal Court Housing Division...664-4295
 Cleveland Restoration Society.....426-3106
 Cleveland Tenants Organization.(CTO).....432-0617
 Community Housing Solutions.....651-0077
 Council for Economic Opportunities in Gr.Cle. 696-9077
 Cuyahoga County Auditor's Office..... 443-7010
 Cuyahoga Land Bank 698-8853
 CMHA Public Housing Applications.....361-3700
 CMHA Progressive Action Council 432-5536
 Dept. of Aging Senior Homeowner Assistance.664-2833
 Department of Community Development .
 Housing Rehabilitation Programs..... 664-2045
 Housing Development Office.....664-2869
 Emergency Home Energy Assistance Prog. . 518-4014
 Fair Housing Board (Cleveland) 664-2018
 Foreclosure Prevention Program
 (NHS & NeighborWorks) . 1-888-995-HOPE
 Habitat for Humanity, Greater Cleveland.....429-1299
 Home Energy Assistance Prog (HEAP)... 800-282-0880
 HEAP Appointments 518-4014
 Home Repair Resource Center 381-6100
 Housing Cleveland.....877-428-8844
 Housing Research & Advocacy Center..... 361-9240
 Fair Housing Hotline 361-9861
 Neighborhood Assistance Corp. of Amer .888-297-5568
 Neighborhood Housing Services458-HOME (4663)
 Northeast Ohio Apartment Association 241-1635
 Ohio Housing Finance Agency888-362-6432
 Ohio Heating Assistance (HEAP &PIPP) 800-282-0880
 ODA Holtline Hearing Impaired..... 800-686-1557
 Thriving Communities Institute 515-8300

LIBRARIES

Cleveland Public Library Main Branch.....623-2800
 Homebound Service Department....623-2842
 TDD-TTY.....623-2916
 CLEVENET Library Consortium
www.clevnet.org/cleveland.php
 Brooklyn Branch.....623-6920
 Carnegie West Branch.....623-6927
 Eastman Branch.....623-6959
 Fulton Branch.....623-6969
 Jefferson Branch.....623-7004
 Lorain.....623-7011
 South.....623-7060
 Walz.....623-7095
 CSU Library (Plain Press issues).....687-2486
 Cuyahoga County Public Library.....398-1800
 Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled
<http://olbpd.cpl.org/>
 The Foundation Center861-1933

MENTAL HEALTH & HELP LINES

Alcohol, Drug Addiction Mental Health Ser.....241-3400
 ADAMHS.....TDD 241-3983
 Applewood Centers.....696-5800
 Applewood Carlos & Mary Jones Center.....741-2241
 Beech Brook Assertive Community Treatment 831-2255
 Catholic Charities Outpatient Mental Health ...939-3700

Older Person Law Unit..(Legal Aid).....687-1900
 Passport 800-626-7277
 Salvation Army West Park Corps Community Center
 West Side Senior Services & Nutrition Program
 252-3593 ext. 106
 Senior Citizen Resources Inc. 749-5367
 Senior Transportation Services1-800-983-4782
 West Rose Multipurpose Senior Ctr.....631-7717
 West Side Community House Senior Enrichment
 771-7297 ext. 303
 Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging.....621-0303
 Family Caregiver Support Program ... 800-581-6884

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

ADAMHS.....348-4830
 Alcoholics Anonymous241-7387
 Al-Anon & Alateen.....621-1381
 Catholic Charities Services- Hispanic Center...3499
 Community Action Against Addiction.....881-0765
 Covenant Adolescent Chemical Dependency
 Treatment and Prevention Center....574-9000
 Cleveland Treatment Center ... Project SAFE...991-
 7233
 Drug Information Program (Cuy Cty).... 436-2000 or 211
 Edna House for Women 281-7751
 Frontline Services Mobile Crisis Team 623-6888
 Hispanic Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse
 Outreach Program (HUMADAOP).....459-1222
 Hitchcock Center for Women 421-0662
 Matt Talbot Inn.....781-0288
 MetroHealth Project DAWN (Naloxone)..... 778-5677
 Narcotics Anonymous.....1-888-GET-HOPE (438-4673)
 Recovery Resources.....431-4131
 Old Brooklyn 486-2999
 Salvation Army Alcohol Detox Unit.....781-2121
 Stella Maris 781-0550
 Women's Recovery Center651-1450

YOUTH

Bellefaire JCB 932-2800
 Big Brothers, Big Sisters.....621-8223
 Boys & Girls Club (West Side).....459-2697
 Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland.....883-2106
 Boy Scouts of America.....861-6060
 Camp Happiness (Children w/ MR/DD)334-2963
 Centers for Families and Children.(Intake).....623-1445
 Cleveland Christian Home671-0977
 Adoption..... 688-4186
 Girl Scouts of Lake Erie Council.....481-1313
 Hispanic Youth Center (HUMADAOP) 459-1222
 Junior Achievement of Greater Cleveland.....861-8080
 Juvenile Court.....443-8400
 Juvenile Detention Center.....443-3300
 Keep Playing Cleveland 440-227-2598
 Merrick House 771-5077
 Merrick House West Youth Program 398-8420
 My Commitment My Community (MyCom)
 Clark Fulton (Hispanic Youth Center)... 459-1222
 Cudell (WSCH)..... 771-7297 Ext. 315
 West Park MyCom (Bellaire Puritas).... 671-2710
 Next Step 221-8920
 OhioGuidestone440-234-2006
 Saint Malachi Center.....771-3036
 Salvation Army Ohio City 631-1515
 Specialized Alternatives for Families & Youth ..295-7239
 West Bethel Baptist Church Youth Services ... 281-6044
 West Denison Baseball Leagues 251-5790
 W. 130 TriLeague 476-8456
 West Side Community House
 Sisterhood Program 771-7297 ext. 315
 Boys Council 771-7297 ext. 346
 Youth Community Diversion Program.....664-6250
 Youth Opportunities Unlimited566-5445

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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.

CLEVELAND PUBLIC THEATRE STEP (Student Theatre Enrichment Program) is an arts-based job training program that engages Cleveland teens from low-income families in an 8-week intensive experience. Students ages 14-19 with little or no previous performance experience are eligible and earn money while learning and practicing valuable job skills and theatre skills. Auditions days and times are Saturdays, March 11 & 18 and Sunday March 19th, from 1pm to 4 pm. Applicants must have an interest in theatre performance and/or set and construction, and prepare a 1-minute piece (dance, monologue, or song) to be performed at the audition. Call Adam Seeholzer, CPT Education Manager (216/631-2727, ext. 219), with name, phone number and an audition date you will attend. Registration for Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) is strongly suggested to be completed before auditions. To register for YOU, visit <http://www.youthopportunities.org>

ENVIRONMENT
Winning submissions from **EARTH DAY COALITION'S Art, Poetry, and Essay Contest 2016** are on display at the Carnegie West Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, 1900 Fulton Road, Cleveland. The display will be up for viewing through Friday, March 31.

BROCHURES for the 2017 ART, POETRY AND ESSAY CONTEST, will be available online at earthdaycoalition.org and at public libraries. The 2017 celebration year theme is "Vibrant Green Spaces". For students K-12. Submissions due by March 31. The 2017 winners will be awarded and displayed at EarthFest 2017, on April 22, at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Berea.

FAMILY HISTORY
GENEALOGY for beginners at Cleveland Public Library. Saturday, March 11 at the Brooklyn Branch at 3706 Pearl Rd, and Saturday, April 8 at Eastman Branch at 11602 Lorain Ave. Both sessions begin at 10:30 am and end at 12 noon. Free and open to all. No registration necessary. For more information, call 216/623-2864, visit www.cpl.org or email clgh@cpl.org.

HEALTH CARE
'WELCOME TO MEDICARE' monthly online webinars are available for Ohioans newly eligible for Medicare in 2017. Medicare experts from Ohio Department of Insurance will cover topics such as Medicare Part A and B benefits, the Part D prescription drug benefit, Medicare Supplement plans, Medicare Advantage plans, financial assistance and key deadlines. To register for one that is convenient for you, visit www.insurance.ohio.gov; click on the Medicare Services tab; then click on the calendar link at the bottom of the page. For additional information please contact the department's Medicare experts at 1-800-686-1568. Or follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OSHIIP

IMMIGRATION
IMMIGRANT NARRATIVES: Crossing Borders: Immigrant Narratives, a staged reading of original work sponsored by Lit Cleveland, is set for Saturday, March 18th and Sunday, March 19th at 7 pm in the Cleveland State University student center ballroom, 2121 Euclid Ave, SC 319. For more information check at www.litcleveland.org

"KNOW YOUR RIGHTS" with an Immigration Scholar sponsored by the Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network at the Storefront at 4241 Lorain Ave. on Monday, March 13, 2017 at 7 PM - 9 PM.

LEGAL ISSUES
A talk on **ADVANCE PLANNING** including powers of attorney and advance directives will be presented at Cogswell Hall at 7200 Franklin Blvd. on Saturday, March 11 at 9:30 am. To RSVP, call 216/961-1568, ext. 312, or email kramunni@cogswellhall.org.

LIBRARY
WALZ BRANCH LIBRARY open house anytime between 4 and 7 pm on Tuesday, March 7 to help kick off the branch's Community Vision Plan at 7910 Detroit Ave. For more information, call 216/623-2832, email timothy.diamond@cpl.org, or visit www.cpl150.org.

OHIO CITY
OHIO CITY INC'S ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21 from 5-8 p.m. at Urban Community School, 4909 Lorain Avenue. The event is open to all with a suggested donation of \$10 to attend.
OHIO CITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES candidate applications are being accepted until March 10th at 5 p.m. The election will be held on Tuesday May 2nd. To access an application visit ohiocity.org board.

PIANO
2018 YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION, sponsored by the Cleveland International Piano Competition (CIPC), is scheduled for May 30 - June 9, 2018 for students ages 12 through 17. (Eligibility is determined by age as of June 9, 2018.) Students will be invited to participate fol-

lowing a rigorous, worldwide preliminary screening round. For more information, visit <https://www.clevelandpiano.org/competitions/young-artists/>.

SCHOLARSHIPS
CHILDREN AND TEENS: The application deadline for the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program, for students who have a current Individualized Education Program (IEP), is April 15. Students applying for a Cleveland Scholarship and EdChoice Scholarship, for K-12 students, must apply before April 30. Income-Based Scholarships are an option for students entering K-grade 4. The deadline is also April 30. A second application window for the EdChoice and Income-Based scholarships will open on July 1. Income-Based Scholarships are an option for students entering K-grade 4. The deadline is April 30. Families who have questions about scholarship eligibility, the programs, or any of the other education options available to Ohio students can contact School Choice Ohio at 1-800-673-5876 or visit www.schoio.org

THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION'S SCHOLARSHIP LIST is for Greater Clevelanders who aspire to begin, or continue, **post-secondary educational** pursuits—whether for college or university courses or training for recognized occupations. The application period will conclude at close of business, March 15. More information and a comprehensive list of our available scholarships may be viewed at <https://www.clevelandfoundation.org/scholarships/scholarships-overview/>.

SOCIAL JUSTICE
FROM SLAVE TO CRIMINAL WITH ONE AMENDMENT, THE 13TH. A documentary exploring race, and the criminal justice system. Free screening and post-film discussion. Thursday, March 23 at 6 pm at Near West Theatre at 6702 Detroit Ave.

SUMMER CAMP
CAMP FORBES is open to any Cleveland resident between the ages of 9 and 13 for one week each (Monday through Friday). Free of charge. Registration deadline is May 31. Applications are available at Cleveland recreation centers (call 216/664-2561 for a list). To register parents must come to center, with the child's birth certificate, immunization records and current utility bill (bill must be within last 3 months). Michael Zone Recreation Center is going from June 26-June 30th!

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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
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