



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Tuesday, March 21; Ohio City Incorporated Annual Meeting, Urban Community School, 4909 Lorain Avenue: Artist Susie Underwood speaks of the collaborative efforts of artists and organizations participating in creating street art in Ohio City as part of the Cleveland Foundation sponsored Creative Fusion artists in residency program.

Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Ohio City Incorporated celebrates at annual meeting

At the Ohio City Incorporated (OCI) annual meeting on March 21, both Board President Chris Schmitt and Executive Director Tom McNair called for the organization to improve its connection to people in the community.

Board President Schmitt called for

creating an "environment that is welcoming and supportive to families of all types." He said the organization is working to "physically connect" the neighborhood with special attention to Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority housing. He said OCI believes in inclusion and

diversity, but must do a better job of communicating with residents. He urged residents to get to know the staff and board better this year and reach out to them. "We want to be connected to you," he said. He urged residents to reach out to board and staff members with their questions and concerns.

Executive Director Tom McNair talked about the demographics of the neighborhood that is 54% white, 34% African American and 18% Hispanic. He noted that in a neighborhood of 10,000 residents, 2000 of those residents lived in public housing and 80% of the public housing residents are African American. He talked about the challenge to connect the neighborhood better physically, but also to "start talking with each other."

McNair challenged the organization to "evolve from outreach to engagement." He noted while information was available at block club meetings, a lot of people never go to block club meetings. McNair promised to hold quarterly community forums and to form a Community Engagement Committee "to help reach other people we are not reaching."

McNair talked about efforts by OCI to improve the walkability and connectivity of the whole neighborhood, efforts to attract and retain businesses, work to increase housing density along the main transit

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, March 21; Ohio City Incorporated (OCI) Annual Meeting, Urban Community School, 4909 Lorain Avenue: Kathleen Williams of Lakeview Terrace Community Center receives the OCI Legacy Award for over three decades of service with the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority. Williams work at the community center involves planning and coordinating activities for youth and their families.

Malachi House receives grants for capital improvements

Malachi House, a home for the terminally ill who are in need, has received \$159,000 in grants that it plans to use to update its kitchen, generator, resident furnishings,

basement and laundry. Malachi House, located in the Ohio City neighborhood in a beautiful home-like setting, serves as many as 15 residents at any given time.

The grants came from the Cleveland Foundation, the Edward A. and Catherine L. Lozick Foundation, The Elisabeth Severance Prentiss

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, March 17; St. Colman Church, 2017 W. 65th: Girls, sporting their West Side Irish American Club outfits, emerge from Mass ready to head downtown to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Former President of West Side Market Tenants Association Vince Bertonaschi shares thoughts after closing his stand

by Chuck Hoven

"The West Side Market is one of the most amazing places you are ever going to find," said Ohio City Executive Director Tom McNair at the Ohio City Incorporated annual meeting on March 21, 2017.

Former President of the West Side Market Tenants' Association Vince Bertonaschi said he is concerned some of the characteristics that make the West Side Market so special will be lost because of changes instituted in an effort by Ohio City Inc, to "market the West Side Market" that began around the planning for the West Side Market's centennial celebration in 2012.

When he served as president of the West Side Market Tenants Association, Bertonaschi advocated strongly for his fellow tenants and worked to preserve the West Side Market as a real market where people shop for groceries from small merchants who are involved in the selection and preparation of the product they sell.

After over 30 years at the West Side Market, Bertonaschi decided not to renew his lease this year. It seemed to him that the City of

Cleveland was ignoring his pleas on behalf of West Side Market Merchants to lower rent 25% for three years while they regained customers who have changed their shopping habits because they could not find a place to park when they came to the West Side Market.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Bertonaschi objects to recent changes in the West Side Market's hours, the takeover of the West Side Market's parking lot by the City of Cleveland, and the plan to institute paid parking at the West Side Market parking lot.

Bertonaschi fought to maintain the West Side Market Tenants Association control over the West Side Market Parking lot. "I'm tired of fighting something that should not have to be fought," he said. He talked about the history of the West Side Market Parking lot and the role the West Side Market Tenants played in securing property for the lot and maintaining it over the years. Bertonaschi is outraged at the takeover of the lot by the city of Cleveland.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, March 23; Malachi House, Ohio City neighborhood: Celebrating the receipt of a \$75,000 grant from the Cleveland Foundation to upgrade the kitchen and generator at Malachi House are: Front Row (L-R): Cleveland Foundation Executive Assistant Annabel Bryan, Cleveland Foundation Program Officer Stephen Caviness, Cleveland Foundation Senior Vice President of Programs India Pierce Lee, Malachi House Executive Director Judy Ghazoul Hilow, Malachi House Co-founder Kaki O'Neill, and Malachi House Development Director Nicole Moehring. Rear Row (L-R): Malachi House Volunteer John Gerace, Malachi House Volunteer Coordinator Liz Bowen, and grant writer Molly Pascoe.

Community Roundtable-- Cleveland Police Reform

To the editor:

There was much to learn from the community roundtable on Cleveland police reform and consent decree held on March 22nd at the Urban Community School in Ohio City. But, it might not have been obvious. That is because people tend to focus on content instead form, “substance” instead of procedure. But, procedure largely determines substance and outcomes, and for that reason is imperative to monitor.

LETTER

In fact, it is good to view public meetings as an anthropologist would see them, that is, as a “ceremony”, in this case as a legally mandated ceremony of validation. Especially here, whether it was merely a matter of going through the motions. Firstly, is the issue of who is invited to the ceremony-- and who is not. That would certainly affect the

outcome. I myself learned of the meeting only by chance through a flyer at the library posted inconspicuously on the day of the meeting. How the other eighty some participants were informed, I do not know. But the control of the flow of information is real power, and I couldn't help but noticing that there were less than twenty African Americans present, and this for an issue greatly divided by race. Also interesting, was that to attend the meeting one was required, for some reason, to write down one's name, telephone number and e-mail. But why not also a brief questionnaire on race, age, gender, education level, and income level which is common even to employment applications and marketing surveys? It is important to know how representative these public forums truly are. Secondly, one should ask who

leads the meetings. In this case, some of the roundtable “facilitators” were members of the police department. One African American gentleman commented to me that this, in itself, would have a chilling effect on free discussion, especially since the topic was the consent decree and police misconduct. I was disappointed that the copy of the “Settlement Agreement” we were given was only two partial pages of a document that literally covered hundreds of points. And more importantly, the agreement's case number was absent from its place on the form, and the judge's name was absent from its place of the form. There was no internet link given. Again, the control of information controls outcomes. Finally, and this might seem like a small point, but is actually a “merely

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“Let me in immigration man”

To the editor:

My grandfather Albert Joseph Bialek came to the United States from Poland (Galicia) in 1910. Per the Ellis Island website, he boarded the ship Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse in Bremen, Germany (formerly Prussia). He had just completed his service in the Austrian Army. Poland at that time was divided into three spheres of influence by Austria, Prussia and Russia. Upon being discharged he returned to his father's farm. Officers from the Austrian Army attempted to reenlist him but tradition dictated he could remain at home so long as he was sorely needed on the farm.

Immediately after the officers departed, Albert's father gave him his brother's travel documents and instructed him to immigrate to the United States. His father knew that war was coming, and he didn't want to lose his son to it. It took me longer to locate my grandfather on the passenger list because I had forgotten he was

traveling under the name Jan and not Albert. Given the fact that Albert entered the United States under the name Jan Bialek and later burned his immigration papers it is evident he was, by definition, an “illegal immigrant.” He went on to become a very hard-working brick mason and law-abiding citizen raising 12 children with the help of his Polish wife Mary {nee Mazan} and the rest, as they say, is history. Just as Cleveland is a city of neighborhoods, so is the United States a country of immigrants. In fact, all the major cities of America, at one time, served as incubators for immigrants to not only become accustomed to the ways of this

country but also to intermingle with each other--often prohibited in their native homeland. It's a shame that the inner cities were handed over to the absentee landlords following World War II. Just imagine how much stronger and united our country might have been had this unofficial tradition continued. Gentrification is not the answer. Preventing immigration is not the solution. Intense vetting is acceptable during these challenging times, but to unfairly deny one person access to the United States makes us all orphans again. As a popular song goes: “let me in immigration man.” Joe Bialek Cleveland, Ohio



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN Friday, March 17; St. Colman Church, 2017 W. 65th: A West Side Irish American Club youth heads down the steps at St. Colman with his drum after the St. Patrick's Day Mass.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Tuesday, March 21; Ohio City Incorporated (OCI) Annual Meeting: Cristine King, an employee of Dave's Supermarket for 23 years, receives the Hospitality Leader Award. King, has spent the last 11 years at the Dave's Ohio City location, talking to people and making them feel welcome in the neighborhood. Behind King are (L-R) OCI Board of Trustees President Chris Schmitt, Executive Director Tom McNair, and Community Planning Aid Agnes Akite.

OHIO CITY INC.
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corridors, and some of the promotion efforts by OCI. He noted the success of Near West Recreation in increasing the number of children it serves.

McNair said OCI is concerned about affordability of retail space and has a program to help businesses with a line of spaces that are 500 square feet.

Speaking of some of the accomplishments of the organization, McNair said of the 622 new or planned units of housing in the neighborhood 60 were deemed affordable. He noted the OCI work with the Creative Fusion project in bringing international artists to the neighborhood to work with local artists and CMHA residents in creating murals in the neighborhood.

The award ceremony followed the remarks by McNair.

Cristine King, a Dave's Supermarket employee, received the Hospitality Leader Award for welcoming engagement with customers over the years.

Rick Foran and Chris Smythe received the Commercial Preservation Award for their work on West 25th Street Lofts.

Bob and Kathy Strickland received the residential preservation award for the efforts in rehabbing a house at 3806 Clinton Avenue. The

couple said they found a buyer for the house before they even put it up for sale.

John Gill accepted the Community Service Award on behalf of the Arrupe Neighborhood Partnership of St. Ignatius High School from which student volunteers work with over 150 children in the neighborhood through a variety of after school programs.

Enrique Muniz Jr., owner of La Boricana Foods, accepted the Outstanding Small Business Award for 23 years of bringing foods from a variety of countries to the neighborhood as well as being a source of employment to refugees.

Mark Raymond, a resident and business owner received the Resident Leader Award for his involvement in the neighborhood. Raymond is the owner of the Ohio City Hostel and the Passenger Café.

Kathleen Williams received the

Legacy Award for her service to youths and adults through her work at the Lakeview Community Center.

Dr. Donald Malone Jr., Presidents of Lutheran Hospital, received the Presidential Award for his efforts to involve Lutheran Hospital in the community.

Lillian Kuri of the Cleveland Foundation accepted the Arts & Culture Award for the involvement of the Cleveland Foundation's International artist residency program's Creative Fusion with Ohio City Inc and Hingetown. Kuri invited artists involved in the project on stage to participate in the acceptance of the award. Artists, involved in the Creative Fusion project, created several murals along the Detroit Avenue corridor and surrounding streets in the Hingetown area of Ohio City. Kuri said that one of the murals, which sits across from Lakeview Tower, is the largest in the State of Ohio.

Cleveland Neighborhood Progress awards twelve community development grants

Cleveland Neighborhood Progress' Strategic Investment Initiative awards for the 2017-2020 funding cycle will go to twelve Community Development Corporations in the city. A total of \$4.2 million was awarded in nine grants. Three of the grants involved collaborative efforts.

On the West Side of Cleveland, three grants were awarded. Detroit

Shoreway Community Development Organization and Metro West Community Development Organization collaborated in receiving a \$220,000 award. Ohio City Inc. and Tremont West Development Corporation collaborated in receiving a \$215,000 award. Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation received an \$100,000 award.

A total of 14 proposals from a combined 23 Community Development Corporations (CDC's) were received by Cleveland Neighborhood Progress for this competitive funding program. "These selected CDC's will be taking on important work city-wide and we look forward to working with them as they implement community development strategies for their neighborhoods," said Colleen Gilson, Vice President of CDC Advancement for Cleveland Neighborhood Progress.



2017 Schedule
Sessions fill up fast. Come early.



Earle B. Turner
Clerk of Courts

Sat. April 29th	9AM	The WORD Church 18909 S Miles Rd. 44128
Thurs, May 18th	1PM	Mega Church 3170 Scranton Rd. 44109
Thurs, May 25th	1PM	Friendly Inn 2386 Unwin Rd, 44104
Thurs, June 8th	1PM	Holy Trinity Baptist Church 3808 East 131st 44120
Thurs, June 22nd	1PM	Estabrook Rec. Center 4125 Fulton Rd 44144
Thurs, July 13th	1PM	2nd New Hope Baptist Church 2917 E. 116th 44120
Thurs, July 27th	1PM	La Sagrada Familia 7719 Detroit Ave. 44102
Thurs, Aug. 10th	1PM	2nd Ebenezer Baptist Church 1881 E. 71st 44103
Thurs, Aug. 24th	4PM	2nd Calvary Baptist Church 12017 Emery Ave. 44135
Thurs, Sept. 14th	4PM	Harvard Community Services Ctr. 18240 Harvard Ave. 44128
Thurs, Sept. 28th	1PM	Inner City Baptist Church 1643 E. 55th 44103
Sat, Oct. 14th	9AM	Lee Memorial A.M.E. Church 861 E. 105th 44108

MetroHealth issues bonds for continuing campus transformation

On March 22, the MetroHealth Board of Trustees unanimously approved the issuance and sale of up to \$1.3 billion in bonds to fund the health system's campus transformation. MetroHealth anticipates a 40-year final maturity to fund all associated costs of the campus transformation.

MetroHealth self-issued the bonds. Bank of America Merrill Lynch and J.P. Morgan Securities are co-lead underwriters for the sale of the bonds. Kaufman, Hall and Associates has acted as financial advisors for the campus transformation since 2015.

MetroHealth's campus transformation will include significant construction projects on its 52-acre main campus. Plans call for a new 12-story hospital building, a 1200-1500 car parking garage, and a central utility plant. Buildings will be demolished to make way for green space and internal roads, with additional plans to revitalize the W. 25th Street corridor.

The first phase of the campus transformation started in 2015 with the demolition of the Northcoast Behavioral Health Care Facility and the construction of the \$82 million, two-story addition to the existing Critical Care Pavilion, which opened in July 2016.

Editor's Note: For more information visit metrohealth.org.

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NOBLE urges citizens to contact legislators about concerns in upcoming two year state budget

Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE), a community based coalition working to make the community's voice heard in the State of Ohio's legislative process, is currently mobilizing residents to lobby the State Legislature concerning the next two-year state budget. On March 29th, local members of NOBLE boarded a bus from Merrick House in the Tremont neighborhood for a trip to Columbus, Ohio to lobby the state legislature. In a Platform summary, NOBLE lists items that it would like addressed in the budget, which they hope will fund many programs in the State of Ohio from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019.

Topics addressed in the NOBLE Platform include: education, revenue sources, housing, health and human services; child care; kinship care; elder care; care for people with disabilities; health care and

Medicaid; cash assistance; food assistance; transportation; and restoring the local government fund to 2010 levels.

For those that want to help, NOBLE suggests emailing a letter or calling certain members of the State Legislature to address issues that NOBLE believes should be addressed in the budget. Here are some of the issues NOBLE suggests acting on by sending a letter to your State Representative or State Senator, as well as a person in the leadership of the Ohio Legislature.

NOBLE suggests writing a letter or calling State Representative Ryan Smith, Chair of the House Finance Committee, to ask him to increase the Child Care Subsidy from 130% to 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. This would make it possible for more parents to send their children to quality day care centers while they are working. NOBLE

also suggests Representative Ryan Smith as the contact to ask about restoring the local government fund to the 2010-11 levels. Since the local government fund was cut by the State of Ohio, municipalities, townships and counties have had to make serious cuts, impacting the quality of life, health and safety of Ohio's citizens, says NOBLE. Rep. Ryan Smith can be contacted at: rep93@ohiohouse.gov or by phone at: 614-466-1366.

Chair of the Health and Human Services Sub-Committee, Representative Mark Romanchuk is the contact person for several issues that NOBLE hopes will be addressed in the state budget. They urge citizens to ask him to increase funding for Adult Protective Services to \$10 million for each year in the two-year budget to help counties

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MALACHI HOUSE

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Foundation and KeyBank Tiedmann C.A.R.E.S and their employees.

The Cleveland Foundation gave \$75,000 to support Malachi House's capital improvements program. The grant money from The Cleveland Foundation will be used to upgrade the kitchen at as well as the generator.

The Edward A. and Catherine L. Lozick Foundation gave \$45,000

that will be used for renovations of the laundry room and basement.

The Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Foundation awarded a \$25,000 grant for resident furnishings.

KeyBank Tiedemann C.A.R.E.S. matched their employee contributions of \$7,000 and donated \$14,000.

Malachi House was founded in 1987 through a pioneering effort to preserve human dignity for terminally ill individuals. The inspiration for the house came from the min-

istry of Father Paul Hritz and the St. Malachi Church parishioners who often encountered homeless individuals dying under bridges, in cars, deserted buildings and other unsuitable places within the city.

Father Paul Hritz and co-founder, Catherine "Kaki" O'Neill, both envisioned the creation of a home-like setting where compassionate people would provide care and attention to those who would otherwise spend their final days alone.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, March 17; St. Colman Church, 2017 W. 65th: Two young women from the West Side Irish American Club walk in step as they come out of the Mass at St. Colman and prepare to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Cleveland.

HAPPY EASTER!

Our Neighborhood Churches Welcome You!

ST. PATRICK, BRIDGE EASTER SERVICES

Holy Thursday: 8 p.m.
Good Friday: 3 p.m.
Ecumenical Service at St. John Episcopal Church on Good Friday at 5:30 pm
Holy Saturday: 9:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

ST. JOHN CANTIUS

906 COLLEGE AVE.
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Holy Thursday
7:00 p.m.
Good Friday
2:30 p.m. Polish Stations
3:00 p.m. Passion
Easter Vigil
Saturday 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday
8:00 a.m. - Traditional Polish Mass and Procession
11:30 a.m. English
Food Blessing Saturday
11:00 a.m., 12:00 Noon & 1:00 p.m.

Easter Greetings from St. Malachi Parish
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• **EASTER SERVICES** •

Holy Thursday - April 13:
7:30 PM - Mass of the Lord's Supper
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 10:00 PM
Good Friday - April 14:
12:00 Noon - Solemn Stations of the Cross
3:00 PM - Commemoration of the Lord's Passion with Communion
Holy Saturday - April 15:
9:00 PM - Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday - April 16:
9:00 AM and 11:30 AM Masses

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Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church

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Holy Week April 13th to 16th, 2017:

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 PM, Followed by Holy Hour. Private Adoration till Midnight.
Good Friday Morning: Church opens at 8:00 AM - for Private Adoration. Confessions will be heard from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM, Stations of the Cross 2:15 PM, Celebrations of the Lord's Passion and Communion at 3:00 PM
Holy Saturday: Blessing of Easter Foods at 1:00 PM in the Church. Confessions in Church from 3:30 to 4:30 PM.
Easter Vigil Mass: 8:00 PM.
EASTER SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM (Italian), 11:30 AM P.N. There will be no 5:00 PM Mass.

St. Augustine Church Holy Week Services

2486 W. 14th

Holy Thursday
6:30 p.m. signed for the Deaf
Good Friday
Liturgy of Lord's Passion
6:30 p.m. signed for the Deaf
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Service
8:30 p.m. signed for the Deaf
Easter Sunday
8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (signed) and 12:30 p.m.
Easter meal served from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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Easter Sunday Service:

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HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 13-16, 2017

HOLY THURSDAY, 7:00 p.m. Mass
GOOD FRIDAY, 12:00 noon to 1:00, Penance (Confession) 3:00 p.m., Solemn Reading of the Passion
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross followed by Confession
HOLY SATURDAY, 1:00 p.m., Blessing of Easter Foods, 9:00 p.m., **EASTER VIGIL MASS**
EASTER SUNDAY, 9:00 a.m. Mass in English
11:00 a.m. Mass in Polish



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Holy Week is April 9 to April 15
Palm Sunday Worship at 9 am
Easter Egg Hunt, Sat. April 15 at 2 pm
Participants are encouraged to bring a dozen eggs Lakewood Community service Center
Maundy Thursday Living Last Supper
Meal 6 at pm | Worship at 7:30 pm
Easter Sunday Worship | April 16 at 9 am
Spaghetti Dinner, Sat. April 29 4:30-6:30 PM
\$10.00 per person. Call Church to purchase tickets



S.O.S Thrift Shop
New Hours: First Fri/Sat every month
New Policy: \$5 Bag Sale each month
April 7 and 8 9 am - 3 pm



March 2017; Wilbur Wright School, 11005 Parkhurst Drive: Wilbur Wright is scheduled to receive nearly \$11 million in renovations. Wilbur Wright is expected to gain many new students next school year as the school district plans to close McKinley School at the end of this school year.

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

WEST SIDE MARKET TENANTS

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“It all started with Joe Cimperman (former Ward 3 Councilman) and his gang of white collar bullies,” said Bertonaschi. He said in planning for the centennial of the West Side Market, they decided Ohio City Inc (OCI) should oversee marketing the West Side Market. They told us, “The market will do better if we’d listen to them.”

Bertonaschi said the centennial report referred to markets in other cities that charged for parking and had longer hours. “The problem,” said Bertonaschi, “is the other markets were more tourist attractions, not real working markets.” Bertonaschi said as President of the West Side Market Tenants Association, he refused to go along with the plan for paid parking, insisting that grocery

shoppers needed free parking close to the market. In rejecting the plan, he said he told Cimperman, “You are gambling with peoples’ livelihoods.”

Bertonaschi said Cimperman told him if he didn’t go along with the plan, the city would take the parking lot from the West Side Market Tenants’ Association. Bertonaschi said Cimperman told him that he didn’t care what he thought because he didn’t live in Cimperman’s ward.

Bertonaschi, who lives in the West Park neighborhood, said he went to his own Councilman Martin Keane for help in keeping the parking lot under control of the West Side Market merchants, but Keane was of no help. Bertonaschi said only Councilman Michael Polensek, a West Side Market shopper, voted against the proposal by the City of Cleveland not to renew the West

Side Market’s lease on their parking lot.

Bertonaschi noted that the West Side Market merchants had a long-standing gentleman’s agreement with the city of Cleveland over the parking lot. The merchants had maintained and operated the lot for years and in the past had even used their own money to purchase parcels that became part of the parking lot. This history did not seem to matter to the city and they took over the parking lot.

Fay Harris, an Ohio City resident involved in neighborhood discussions concerning the West Side Market, said that Neighborhood Progress Inc. told OCI to use the West Side Market as an engine to attract businesses to fill vacant storefronts in the neighborhood. Harris also said Councilman Cimperman promised OCI the West Side Market parking lot would generate \$250,000 per year that could be used for maintenance and salaries.

Requests by the West Side Market merchants to have between 1 ½ and two hours of free parking for their shoppers would reduce the revenue stream the organization

Improvements planned at five older Cleveland school buildings

CMSD NEWS BUREAU: The Cleveland Metropolitan School District will begin more than \$23 million in improvements this year at five older school buildings, funding the projects with money from a bond issue approved by voters.

Improvements are in store for William Cullen Bryant School (3121 Oak Park) and Benjamin Franklin School (1905 Spring Road) in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood; the Louis Agassiz School (3595 Bosworth) and Wilbur Wright School (11005 Parkhurst Drive) in the Westown area; as well as the downtown Lakeside Building, home to the Cleveland High School for Digital Arts and the new Davis Aerospace and Maritime High School.

The work, designed to “refresh” and repair the buildings or provide space for new programs, includes

hoped to generate, said Harris.

This plan seems to have backfired as Mayor Frank Jackson’s Chief of Staff Ken Silliman told area residents at a public meeting that the money from parking fees at the West Side Market would have to be used to pay off bonds on downtown parking garages. Only fees from the Hicks lot could be used toward maintenance needs at the West Side market. It is unclear from City of Cleveland documents if this is true. Audits of financial statements from the City of Cleveland Department of Public Works Division of Parking Facilities, secured by Fay Harris, indicate that the revenue from the West Side Market lot is not necessary to pay off the bonds. The City of Cleveland is currently meeting its payments on the bonds without revenue from the West Side Market parking lot. From reviewing city documents, it looks as though the parking revenue from the lot is simply backup security for the bonds, and the revenue is not needed for payments on the bonds.

Once the City of Cleveland had control of the parking lot, they began to redesign the lot along with the nearby Hicks lot in a plan to add 125 more parking spaces. The construction on the lot disrupted parking behind the West Side Market for 10 months. Bertonaschi said he petitioned the City of Cleveland to reduce rents for market tenants by 25% for three years to help them fi-

nancially as they tried to regain customers who went to shop elsewhere when they could not find parking spots during the construction.

The problem of a shortage of parking places predates the work on the lot, large restaurants, bars and other new venues in the neighborhood were already encroaching on the parking traditionally reserved for West Side Market shoppers. At a meeting at Great Lakes Brewery, in a discussion of where the outside market merchants were going to park, Mayor’s Chief of Staff Ken Silliman suggested they could park at a lot on W. 25th and Detroit and take a shuttle bus to the West Side Market. As President of the West Side Market Tenants Association, Bertonaschi rejected the idea of merchants standing on a corner at 4 or 5 a.m. waiting for a shuttle bus with their change money for the day as out of hand.

Speaking of area merchants in the surrounding neighborhood, Bertonaschi says, “They moved in and didn’t have to pay anything for parking.” He said they stole the West Side Market Parking lot that the market merchants had cared for since the 1960s. Bertonaschi believes the large businesses in the neighborhood should have joined together to build a parking garage or find their own solution to their parking needs rather than commandeering

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STATE BUDGET

continued from page 5

address the needs of the elderly, as the population of senior citizens continues to increase. Romanchuk is also the contact person to ask about increasing funding for community-based, senior services such as community-based or home-delivered, senior meals and transportation for senior citizens. Romanchuk is the contact person to petition for funding for kinship care. Letter writers or callers should ask for his support on HB 458 which will create the Kinship Care Navigator Program and to also ask him to fully fund it in the 2018-19 biennium Budget. Another issue to bring up to Romanchuk is the need to expand funding for mental health, alcohol and drug addiction services. Especially needed are funds for crisis services and residential detox beds. Representative Mark Romanchuk can be reached by email at rep02@ohiohouse.gov or by phone at 614-466-5802. The Speaker of the Ohio House, Rep. Cliff Rosenberger is the suggested

COMMUNITY BOARD

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6 pm – 8:30 pm. Visit <http://www.clecpc.org>

PRISONS FOR PROFITS: An Evening of Documentary and Discussion Wednesday, April 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm @ Lakewood Public Library, 15425 Detroit Ave. Lakewood. It has been over five years since Ohio made history with the first sale of a state prison to a private company, and the results have been disastrous. Step inside the world of prison privatization and engage in a dialogue with ACLU of Ohio staff who are leading the fight against prisons for profit. This event is free and open to the public. To RSVP, please visit <https://action.aclu.org/secure/oh-prisons-for-profit-lakewood-2017-0419> to complete the online form. Questions: Email contact@acluohio.org or call (216) 472-2220. Please contact us to request ADA accommodations for any event.

PUBLIC TRANSIT KICKOFF TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSIT with Transit Center on Wednesday, April 5, at 7 pm - 8:30 pm, Market Garden Brewery, 1947 West 25th St. Panel discussion moderated by Bethia Buke from the Fund for our Economic Future. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/460633780935224/>.

SUMMER CAMP CAMP FORBES is open to any Cleveland resident between the

WEST SIDE MARKET

continued from page 6

the West Side Market parking lot. He said adding insult to injury, after taking over the lot, the City of Cleveland Director of Public Works charged the West Side Market merchants \$86,000 per year to pay for security for the lot. When asked why he didn't ask other businesses in the neighborhood to contribute to the cost of security, Cox told West Side Market tenants, "Because I can't add it to their rent." Bertonashi said prior to the City of Cleveland taking over the lot the market, merchants were paying only \$76,000 a year for both maintenance and security for the parking lot. The construction compounded the parking problem. Bertonaschi said in retail, once you lose customers, it is very hard to get them back. His petition for a rent reduction for market tenants resulted only in an offer from the City of Cleveland to reduced 50% rent for one month on only the market stands. Bertonaschi, who also pays rent for cooler space, said the reduction was not enough for him to justify staying at the West Side Market. That coupled with the demands by the City of Cleveland that merchants open on either Sunday or Monday factored in his decision not to renew his lease after

contact to call about keeping Medicaid Expansion without any changes. Rosenberger can be contacted by email at rep91@ohiohouse.gov or by phone at 614-466-3506.

The Chair of the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Tim Schaffer is the person to call to make sure the State of Ohio has enough revenue to fund programs that residents want in the state budget. NOBLE urges that he be contacted and asked to hold hearings to review tax loopholes and to reject income tax cuts. Rep. Tim Schaffer can be contacted by email at rep77@ohiohouse.gov or by phone at 614-466-8100.

NOBLE also suggests that the Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, Senator Frank LaRose be contacted concerning the need for state funding for Public Transportation. NOBLE urges those contacting Senator LaRose to ask him to have the State of Ohio invest at least 10% of the Transportation Budget into public transit and related alternatives. Senator Rank LaRose can be reached by email at sd27@ohiosenate.gov or by phone at 614-466-4823.

The area served by the Plain Press has four State Representatives and

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!

TAX DAY TAX DAY MARCH FOR PEOPLE, PEACE AND PLANET: Fund People's Needs Not Corporate Greed - On Saturday, April 15. Meet at the Free Stamp / Willard Park, Cleveland. Meet and Rally at 11 am. At 11:30 am, proceed to and encircle the Federal Building. From noon to 1 pm, march to CSU. There will be food and tabling at the CSU atrium. Bring letters to deliver to Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman with your messages on how you'd like to see your tax money spent. We will also have paper and pens at the march to write letters. More information at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/219748065163937/>. **TAX DAY MARCH SIGN MAKING PARTY** will be held Sunday, April 9 from 2 to 4 pm. West Side Location: CCPC Office, 11910 Detroit Ave. Lakewood. They'll have some markers and posters, but if you can bring your own and maybe some to donate that would be great!

30 years at the West Side Market. Bertonaschi explained he takes pride in having fresh meat for customers that shopped for beef at Vince's Meats. He would get sides of beef delivered on Mondays and spend Monday and Tuesday down in the cooler breaking and cutting up meat. He would sell the fresh meat on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Selling the last of the meat on Saturday. Vince said this process, along with setting-up and closing-down the stand on days it was open, consumed about 60 hours per week. He said the loss of customers in recent years due to lack of parking, has resulted in him putting in his own money from his Social Security check to help keep the stand open. Bertonaschi said some larger merchants own multiple stands at the West Side Market and can afford to hire help. Also, those that simply hire people to sell wholesale goods, might be able to afford to open on Sundays. He could not afford to do so without compromising the quality of his product. He said, opening another day would simply increase the cost of selling the same amount of meat. Bertonaschi predicted the new rules at the West Side Market would result in some of the smaller merchants that run their own stands, being forced to leave or hire help.

two State Senators. NOBLE members are urged to contact their State Representative and State Senator as well as the people in the legislative leadership mentioned above.

The members of the State House representing areas served by the Plain Press and their contact information follow: District 10 Representative Bill Patmon, rep10@ohiohouse.gov, 614-466-7954; District 11 Representative Stephanie Howse, rep11@ohiohouse.gov, 614-466-1414; District 13 Representative Nickie Antonio, rep13@ohiohouse.gov, 614-466-5921; and District 14 Representative Martin Sweeney, rep14@ohiohouse.gov, 614-466-3350.

Members of the State Senate representing areas served by the Plain Press are District 21 State Senator Sandra Williams, sd21@ohiosenate.gov, 614-466-4857; and District 23 State Senator Michael Skindell, sd23@ohiosenate.gov, 614-466-5123.

To find your State Representative or State Senator go to www.legislature.ohio.gov and click on Find My Legislators and put in your zip code, and the plus four digits after the zip code.

LETTER DELIVERY. The letters will be delivered on Tax Day April 18,10:45 am - Gather in front of Federal building to deliver letters to Portman's office. 12:30 pm - Meet in front of the federal courthouse to deliver letters to Brown's office.

TOWN HALL CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL COURT TOWN HALL MEETING: Tuesday, April 4 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 1355 W. 70th. Learn about programs designed to help you or your family: Drug Court, Veterans' Treatment, Community Court, Human Trafficking, Mental Health and Domestic Violence.

VISTA WORKERS TREMONT WEST is hiring Vista Workers for one-year positions (deadline April 10) and 10-week summer associates (deadline April 17). For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.tremontwest.org/index/news-app?story=124>. For information on positions at other Community Development Organizations, see <http://www.clevelandnp.org/careeropportunities/>

YOUTH HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT is an exhibit created by the Bath and Copely Township Police Departments. The departments constructed what appears to be at first glance the bedroom of an average teenager. The audience is encouraged to explore and interact with items in the display which may be indicative that a teenager is involved in substance abuse,

Bertonaschi said the West Side Market would lose its personal touch. Merchants like him would no longer be able to spend hours in the cooler breaking, cutting and preparing meat for sale. Instead they would be tempted to purchase pre-cut or prepackaged food for sale and then the products available at the West Side Market would be no different from the average grocery store. The West Side Market would lose the vibrancy of having merchant stand owners selling products they themselves had a hand in creating or preparing for sale.

With threats from the City of Cleveland to take away leases of market tenants who didn't open on a Sunday or Monday, and a threatening letter to merchants forbidding them to talk to the media, Bertonashi said, "If you are an animal in a kennel, you have more rights than a tenant at the West Side Market."

Bertonashi blames former Councilman Joe Cimperman, former Ohio City Incorporated Executive Director Eric Wobser, Mayor's Chief of Staff Ken Silliman and Mayor Frank Jackson (because it happened on his watch) for creating "something that they might not be able to fix." Bertonashi said the solution would be not to have caused the problem in the first place.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, March 21; Ohio City Incorporated (OCI) Annual Meeting, Urban Community School, 4909 Lorain Avenue: A student from Paul Dunbar School helps entertain the audience at the OCI Annual Meeting as she performs in "sneak preview" of the school's upcoming production of Disney's Aladdin Jr. The play will be performed at the school on May 5th at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00.

underage drinking, eating disorders, sexual activity and more. "Hidden in Plain Sight" will be on display at the Hispanic UMADAOP Youth Center, 3115 Scranton Road, Cleveland on May 17. Doors open for browsing at 5:45 p.m. with presentations by Bath and Copely Township and Cleveland City Police Departments beginning at 6:30 p.m. The exhibit is open to *adults only*. There is no charge for admittance. For further information, contact Nelson Ramirez, Hispanic UMADAOP at (216) 459-1222. **YOUTH PAGES FOR CUYAHOGA TEENS** comes as a free app for your mobile device. Visit youthpagescl.org or call 211.

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

FOR RENT NEED ANSWERS TO LANDLORD TENANT QUESTIONS? Call Cleveland Tenant's Organization's Client Service Center: 216-432-0617. **PROPERTY OWNERS NEEDED:** If you are a property owner with nice, clean, reasonably priced apartments, and are looking for tenants, please call Care Alliance at (216) 924-0429 and ask for Jim Schlecht.

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Residents offer suggestions for community policing

by Chuck Hoven

A Community Forum was held at Urban Community School on March 22nd, to discuss forming a Community Policing Plan in response to the Consent Decree between the City of Cleveland and the United States Justice Department. Members of the Monitoring Team stressed to residents and stakeholders the importance of recruitment, training and staffing in creating a community policing force. They talked about finding ways to recruit people that are “open-minded, good at communication, have cultural competency and are open to new experiences.” They also asked the audience to look at ways to make the police force more diverse and representative of the community.

To that end, after the crowd of about 100 people was divided into groups for discussion, many proposals were presented as residents interacted with police officers and members of the monitoring team to come up with ideas.

Several ideas involved changing the system of credits given on the civil service test for becoming Police Officer in Cleveland. Currently, the City Charter allows ten credits to be given to an applicant for just one year as a resident of the City of Cleveland. Residents felt that one year was too short a time to allow for so many credits. They suggested giving applicants one credit for each year, up to ten years, for living in Cleveland. In that way, the Cleveland Police Department would be assured of getting more long-term, Cleveland residents with more to offer in terms of existing relationships with Cleveland residents, community organizations and institutions.

In addition, residents suggested that the five additional points for

military service should be scrapped. They said the extra points for military service tilts the personnel in the police force and leads to the militarization of the force. Instead, residents suggested five credits be given to candidates who have completed an Associate Degree or College Degree in a related field (Criminal Justice or one of the Social Sciences) at a Cleveland Based College—i.e. Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland State University or Case Western University. Again, the expectation would be that the graduates would have developed relationships with Clevelanders, organizations and institutions in Cleveland that would be of value in helping with Community Policing.

As a recruiting tool, it was also suggested that the City of Cleveland advertise the fact that it will pay for college courses as continuing education credits. Thus, letting people know that becoming a police officer could be a way to pay for a college education.

It was suggested that recruiting police officers start in elementary and middle school, and officers be hired for their character and have an opportunity to gain skills through the Police Academy and continuing education. One idea was to offer Cleveland students scholarships and aid in studying for the police test.

Another suggestion to help officers and community members in handling nuisance complaints in the neighborhoods, was to have a more robust system than the Mayor’s Action Line. One suggestion for a system, was to assign a tracking number to every complaint. By following the tracking number online, residents and police officers would be able to follow complaints until

they are resolved.

In addressing the community problem of vacant and abandoned houses, residents suggested police officers work with students from Max Hayes construction program to help rehab houses. Officers could help with the work and provide security. The high school students could gain needed skills and the finished house could be turned over to a family in need either through Habitat for Humanity or the Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services. This would be a way not only to involve officers with young people in the community, but to also benefit a family in need of affordable housing and remove a potentially dangerous eyesore from a neighborhood.

There was some discussion about including bike patrols, foot patrols and mini- stations in a community policing effort. While residents spoke of the value of foot and bicycle patrols, the consensus was that the mini stations would be more feasible financially, and offer a base for interaction between residents and officers.

Another suggestion was for officers, after answering a call, to solicit feedback from residents by giving them a satisfaction survey about the officer’s performance on the scene. Additionally, it was recommended that police officers carry business cards including the dates and locations of the Police Community Relations Committee meetings at their police district.

It was suggested that Cleveland Community Police Commission meetings, which solicit citizen ideas concerning the consent decree, be streamed live on Facebook and left up for a week so residents can review the meetings and share ideas.

Other suggestions included building back up the Axillary Police force, and increasing ride-along opportunities and other interactions between residents and police.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Friday, March 17; St. Colman Church, 2017 W. 65th: Members of the West Side Irish American Club’s Fife and Drum Corps play their fifes as they emerge from St. Colman Church and head to the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in downtown Cleveland.

COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE LETTER

continued from page 3

formal” point of huge significance, and that is how one is addressed at meetings. We were all given name tags where we were identified only by first name. To use a big anthropological word, “interpellation”, we were named not as responsible and

active citizens, say “Mr. Grossman”, or Mr. Smith, but merely as a more passive “Bruce” or Joe or Jane. One’s child ego-state was invoked, not one’s adult ego-state. This was especially brought home because the site of the “ceremony” was, after all, an elementary school, and that in the introductory remarks we were told that this was a “teachable moment”.

So, the questions should be asked, was this public meeting truly a town hall gathering of the community, who is invited, how they are invited, who controls the meeting, who sets the agenda of what are proper points of discussion, is the setting of the meeting consistent with its gravity, and how are the participants addressed--- or was the public meeting merely ceremonial? Bruce Grossman
Cleveland, Ohio

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