



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, April 4, 2017; Centers for Families and Children Gordon Square Early Learning Center, 5209 Detroit Avenue: PNC Regional President Paul Clark announces that PNC Foundation and DonorsChoose.org have joined together in a \$5 million initiative to help provide more resources to preschool and head start classrooms.

FREE

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Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

PNC Bank and DonorsChoose.org team up to provide supplies & resources to pre-K and Head Start classrooms

PNC bank and DonorsChoose.org are joining forces in a new \$5 million two-year initiative to assure teachers in pre-Kindergarten and Head Start classrooms have the supplies and tools they need to

enhance the educational experience of their students.

Paul Clark, regional president of PNC's Cleveland market, announced the initiative to a gathering at the Gordon Square Early

Learning Center of the Centers for Families and Children at 5209 Detroit Avenue. The audience for the announcement included 18 preschool students from one of the Gordon Square Early Learning Center classrooms.

Citing the need for the program, Clark said a study by the National Head Start Association said 88% of Head Start teachers reported spending over \$500 of their own money each year for classroom supplies and 10% of Head Start teachers reported spending over \$1,000 per year for classroom supplies.

Noting the importance of quality preschool and Head Start programs to the educational development of children, Clark said, "We think this is the best investment we can make in our community."

The new initiative is an extension of PNC Foundation's Grow Up Great program which started in 2004. PNC Bank says the Grow Up Great program, a \$350 million multiyear initiative, is responsible for helping more than 3 million children through grants and educational programming. PNC Bank describes their partner in this new initiative, DonorsChoose.org, as "an online charity that connects individual donors with classrooms in need."

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, March 25, 2017; Clean-up of W. 73rd Community Coalition lot at W. 73rd and Neville: Eliana Diaz is helping with the clean-up. Eliana joined four of her siblings and her uncle Luis Vizcarondo in helping with the clean-up organized by Reverend Omar Medina, a candidate for City Council in Ward 14.

Clean-up efforts revive W. 73rd Community Coalition's hopes for vacant field

by Chuck Hoven

Several events in late March and early April have led to new hope for the W. 73rd Community Coalition in their effort to have the vacant field at W. 73rd and Neville returned to a state where it is once again usable.

One such event was a clean-up by volunteers, and another was a clean-up of large construction debris by Cuyahoga County.

The W. 73rd Community Coalition once held meetings and picnics on the vacant lot on at W. 73rd and Neville

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Monday, April 10, 2017; Grand Opening Celebration of Neighborhood Family Practice's Puritas Community Health Center, 14625 Puritas Avenue: Participating in the ribbon cutting are: (L-R): District 14 State Representative Martin Sweeney, District 9 Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Neighborhood Family Practice Chief Medical Officer Dr. Erick Kaufman, District 2 Cuyahoga County Representative Dale Miller, Neighborhood Family Practice President and Chief Executive Officer Jean Polster (holding the scissors), District 13 State Representative Nickie Antonio, City of Cleveland Health Commissioner Persis Sosiak, Neighborhood Family Practice Chair of the Board of Directors Samuel Huston, and District 23 State Senator Michael Skindell.

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Monday, April 17, 2017; Dyngus Day Celebration, W. 58th and Detroit: The Krampus of Cle (a creature – half goat, half demon) joined in the celebration of Dyngus Day.

Neighborhood Family Practice celebrates the opening of new Puritas Community Health Center

Neighborhood Family Practice hosted a grand opening celebration for its new Puritas Community Health Center at 14625 Puritas on April 10th. Residents of Bellaire Puritas joined with Neighborhood Family Practice staff and board members and political representatives from the city, county, state and federal government for the celebration. Youths from the Artemus Ward Elementary School's Drum Line provided musical entertainment for guests at the celebration.

Neighborhood Family Practice Chief Executive Officer Jean Polster said that in 2014, Neighborhood Family Practice was one of five health centers in the nation to receive Affordable Care Act funding to open a new health center in an underserved neighborhood. The funding resulted in the opening of a Neighborhood Family Practice location in the Bellaire Puritas neighborhood. Polster said the first location was in a former beauty shop in Puritas Park Plaza.

The volume of patients was soon overwhelming the small office in Puritas Park Plaza. To remedy this, Neighborhood Family Practice applied for and received a Health

Infrastructure Investment Program Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to offset the cost of purchasing and renovating a larger facility. Polster says that with the funding, Neighborhood Family Practice could purchase and rehab an old TV repair shop to create a new 6,000 square foot facility at 14625 Puritas.

Polster praised the Affordable Care Act, passed during the Obama administration, as a signature part of bringing this health care center to the Bellaire Puritas Community. She said the neighborhood lacked health care options because many of the family doctors that were in the neighborhood had left.

Polster and Neighborhood Family Practice Board Chair Samuel Huston thanked a "host of partners" helped to assure that the Bellaire Puritas neighborhood would have a high-quality health care center. Elected officials were thanked for the support that Neighborhood Family Practice has received from federal, state and local government. Polster praised staff and board members that contributed to the

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Monday, April 10, 2017; Fairview Park, W. 38th just South of Franklin Boulevard: Children from Mi Casita Early Learning Center play in the playground across the street from their classroom inside of Near West Intergenerational School. Aidy Pesler, age 3, draws and paints on the sidewalk.



The Plain Press Community Board is a listing of a variety of free activities and resources for neighborhoods served by the Plain Press. The printing of the Community Board is sponsored by Organize! Ohio through donations from readers and supporters.

ARTS AND CULTURE

YOKO INOUE: Tea Taste Democracy and Upside Down Objects. Artist in Residence: March 5 – May 12. Exhibition: May 5 – June 30. Opening Reception: May 5, 6:00 – 9:00 PM. During her SWAP residency at SPACES, Yoko Inoue (Brooklyn, NY) is researching the Japanese art collection of the Cleveland Museum of Art, focusing on how Japanese aesthetics and cultural iconography were integrated into the American economy. Exploring the museum's archives pertaining to former CMA director Sherman Emory Lee, Inoue is examining his pivotal role in the valuation of Japanese artifacts and protection of Japanese cultural properties, as a "Monuments Man," during the post-war US occupation of Japan and the ensuing process of democratization. SPACES is located at 2900 Detroit Ave., in Cleveland, OH. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Sunday: 12 – 5 p.m., and the gallery is open until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Admission during regular gallery hours is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.SPACESgallery.org, call 216/621-2314, or email contact@SPACES-gallery.org.

ENVIRONMENT

RIVERSWEEP comes to Tremont, Duck Island, Irishtown Bend and 10 other neighborhoods on Saturday, May 13th from 9 am to 11:45 am. Meet-up, get registered and pickup supplies by the gazebo in Lincoln Park (approx. address 1201 Starkweather) at 8:30 am, then go to various worksites. Volunteer a few hours to help clean up the Cleveland. Volunteers will receive

RiverSweep Brigade t-shirt (while supplies last) and an invitation to an after party featuring live music and food. For more information, go to canalwaypartners.com/riversweep.

FOOD

THE GREATER CLEVELAND FOOD BANK can help you apply for SNAP (formerly food stamps), medical or cash assistance. Find pantries, hot meals, or produce distribution sites in your neighborhood. Get information about social services that can benefit you and your family. If you don't meet their income guidelines, they can refer you to another program. Call 216/738-2067 anytime Monday-Friday 8 am – 5 pm and speak with a Client Help Specialist, or walk in anytime (no appointment needed) the same times at 15500 South Waterloo Rd. in Collinwood.

KIDS' CAFÉ. Free healthy, nutritious meals for children, thanks to a partnership with The Greater Cleveland Food Bank. After school, Monday through Friday at the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library at 8216 Lorain Ave. (216/623-7011).

THE NEAR WEST HUNGER CENTER, administered by the St. Vincent DePaul Society, is located at the St. Patrick's Club Building at 3610 Bridge. They provide free bags of food on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 am to 2 pm, and free hot meals Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:30 pm. They serve residents of zip codes 44102 and 44113.

GARDENING

GARDENING QUESTION? Call the Master Gardener Hotline at 216/429-8200 ext. 235 on Mondays and

Eileen Kelly to head ID Crisis Collaborative

Eileen Kelly, after having served for more than two decades as the Outreach Minister at St. Colman Church in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, has accepted a new position as the Director of the Identification Crisis Collaborative (IDCC).

In making the announcement on LinkedIn, Kelly speaks of her role in founding the ID Crisis Collaborative in 1999 as part of her work as Outreach Minister at St. Colman. She notes the collaborative consists of 28 agencies around Cuyahoga County. Kelly says "The IDCC pays for birth certificates, replacement Driver's Licenses, and replacement or original State IDs for adults with low income. The IDCC pays for birth certificates for children of families who have low income if they are registering for Kindergarten, or if their parent or guardian is applying for subsidized housing; the IDCC

pays for a birth certificate and ID for teens in families that have low income, who are 15-17 years old and need an ID to work."

Kelly says, "Last year the IDCC provided about 5,000 people with over 7,500 documents so they can work, attend school, college or vocational programs, obtain housing, vote or get medical tests and procedures."

St. Colman Church will continue to be a member of the collaborative and provide ID and Birth Certificate services. In the April 23rd parish bulletin, the church said, "St. Colman is a founding member of the ID Crisis Collaborative and still provides these documents to those in need." The bulletin noted that every Wednesday, by appointment, eligible people meet with ID Collaborative volunteers in the School and use the same procedures and

vouchers that all the agencies in the ID Crisis Collaborative use.

The St. Colman bulletin said to qualify for service by the ID Collaborative "one must be eligible for or receiving food stamps, or have Social Security Disability or Retirement as their only income." Those wishing to access this service at St. Colman can call Elena Latorre at the Parish Office to make an appointment. Those wishing to volunteer their services to help on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. can also call the Parish Office at 651-0550.

The St. Colman bulletin also noted that Eileen Kelly is now directing this county wide collaborative full time and will be working out of an office at the West Side Catholic Center at W. 32nd and Lorain Avenue. Eileen Kelly can be reached there at 631-4741, ext. 300.

COMIC BOOK DAY will be held May 6 starting at 1 pm at the Lorain Branch of the CPL at 8216 Lorain Ave. (216/623-7011). Giveaways (while supplies last), Crafts, Raffle, Costume and Makeup Workshops, Superhero movie and Refreshments. (Coming in Costume is encouraged!)

MOTHER'S DAY presents an opportunity for children to make personalized Mother's Day cards at the Lorain Branch of the CPL at 8216 Lorain Ave. (216/623-7011) on Tuesday, May 9 at 4:30 pm

FREE YOGA CLASSES Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 pm – 1:45 pm (come anytime) at the Cleveland Public Library Main Library at 325 Superior Ave., CDPL, 3rd floor.

OHIO CITY

THE ANNUAL OHIO CITY NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP DAY is scheduled for Saturday, May 6th, when neighbors will meet at Fairview Park at 11am to get supplies such as trash bags & gloves (and coffee & donuts) and learn about 3 Minute Thursday - a resident-led solution to year-round community cleaning. Participants will break out into groups from 12-3pm to cleanup specified areas in our neighborhood. They will close out the afternoon with a beer and some snacks at the Old Angle. Sign up for the cleanup day at <http://www.ohiocity.org/event/neighborhood-clean-up-day> so they

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CLEANUP EFFORTS

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says it was before the lot was used as a staging area for Dominion Gas Company to put in new lines and for the reconstruction of W. 73rd Street.

After the construction crews left the scene, the lot was filled with construction debris. Ruts from heavy vehicles made it impossible to mow or maintain.

On March 25, a small but dedi-

Mike Wolfe of HISTORY'S American Pickers to appear at the Variety Theatre to announce winner of This Place Matters campaign

Mike Wolfe, creator and star of HISTORY's popular TV series *American Pickers*, will appear at the Variety Theatre, 11835 Lorain Avenue, on June 7, 2017 at 2:00 p.m., to announce that the restoration of the theatre and complex is the official winner of his *This Place Matters* national competition. The event will be sponsored by Westown Community Development Corporation, and will be free and open to the public.

The contest was held last year as part of Wolfe's partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to highlight the volunteer support of preservation and restoration of historic structures throughout the United States. With the commitments of state historic tax credits and new market tax credits, the project, which spans a city block, is poised to close the financing gap on this \$14 million project. Last year the City of Cleveland completed \$8 million dollars in streetscape and roadway improvements in the Variety Village Historic District.

Ward 11 Councilwoman Dona Brady, who represents the neighborhood, said, "This is the culmination of 12 years of planning and development to make this beloved neighborhood landmark shine again." Brady also adds, "The restoration of the theatre will make it a destination for visitors and a neighborhood of choice. It will be a catalyst for ex-

cated group of volunteers took on the task of raking and bagging litter and debris on the lot. The effort was organized by Omar Medina, an associate pastor at Jesus es la Resueta at W. 85th and Madison and a candidate for the Ward 14 seat in Cleveland City Council.

Participating in the clean-up with Medina were the Diaz children – Ilan, Rachel, Amanda, Eliana and Jonathan and their uncle Luis Vizcarrondo. Reinforcements to the clean-up came in the form of two

members of Unity Through People – Dion Pride and Luis Travels – who came across town to help with the clean-up. The group used gloves and rakes to clean up and fill many bags of trash and debris from the field.

The Diaz children shared some ideas about what they would like to see in the lot in their neighborhood. Their ideas included: a dog park, a community garden, a playground and houses.

However, when the clean-up was completed the lot was still filled with ruts from the heavy vehicles and huge chunks of concrete from discarded pieces of the street, curbs, and sidewalks.

This is where the efforts of Ward 14 Councilman Brian Cummins came into play. Cummins said that two different contractors had leased the land – Dominion to put in gas lines, and contractors working for Cuyahoga County to reconstruct W. 73rd Street.

Cummins says the Land Bank Management in the Department of Public Works should have had inspectors go out and inspect condition of the lot before and after leasing the lot to each of the two contractors. He said the inspectors should never have allowed a contractor to leave the property in that condition without clean-up following the completion of their work. Cummins says this is a chronic problem in most public works projects in Cleveland.

Cummins said this situation was doubly difficult to resolve because both Dominion and the Cuyahoga

expanded economic and community development which means more investment, jobs and stabilization."

Michael Ripich, Chief Executive Officer and President of American Tank and Fabricating, and President of The Friends of The Historic Variety Theatre said, "At once, this honor serves to celebrate the value of preserving our city's heritage as well as the virtue of creating community for future generations. The award is also recognition of the accomplishments of the many who have worked tirelessly to save the Variety."

The project's anchor tenant that will occupy the theatre is the George Group, which operates 27 restaurants in North East Ohio.

For more information contact info@westowncdc.org, or Westown Executive Director Rose Zitiello, at 216-941-9262.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, March 25, 2017; Clean-up of W. 73rd Community Coalition lot at W. 73rd and Neville: Dion Pride readies a bag as Louis Travels rakes up debris. Pride and Travels are members of Unity Through People.

County contractors had leased the same site. In the end, he said, Cuyahoga County assumed responsibility for the clean-up and "took care of it." However, Cummins says, because of the lack of inspections from the City of Cleveland, no one could be sure if all or just some of the construction debris resulted from the Cuyahoga County contractors.

Plain Press

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Monday, April 17, 2017; Dyngus Day Celebration, W. 58th and Detroit: Pudge Golonka, aka Mark Jenks, stands behind the smoke coming from a sculpture of rooster, a symbol of fertility. The sign on the front of the sculpture reads, "Polskie Wiosna Kurczak" or Polish Spring Chicken.

Keisha González named Managing Director of Metro West

On April 26, 2017, Metro West Community Development Organization announced that current Economic Development Director Keisha González has been promoted to the role of Metro West Managing Director starting May 1st.

González has worked for Metro West for three years, starting as a Community Organizer and later becoming Economic Development Director. Keisha grew up in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood and is

now a resident of Brooklyn Centre.

Current Managing Director Adam Stalder is transitioning to Project Manager on Detroit Shoreway's Real Estate Team. Adam has a passion for Real Estate Development and chose to take on this new role to further gain experience within this field. He will remain involved in the Metro West community, where he lives, and will stay on to ensure a smooth transition with staff changes over the next six months.

NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY PRACTICE

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planning for the new health care center.

Neighborhood Family Practice spokesperson Audra Bennett says the new renovated facility will have 12 patient care rooms (7 more than the location at a Puritas Park Plaza). NFP will now offer women's health and midwifery services at the Bellaire Puritas location as well as behavioral health services for established patients.

Elected officials and their representatives congratulated Neighborhood Family Practice on its new center, presented proclamations and shared some thoughts on its importance to the neighborhood. Those sharing remarks included:

Ward 16 Councilman Brian Kazy, District 14 State Representative Martin Sweeney, District 9 Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, District 2 Cuyahoga County Representative Dale Miller, District 13 State Representative Nickie Antonio, City of Cleveland Health Commissioner Persis Sosiak, and District 23 State Senator Michael Skindell.

In her remarks, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur stressed the importance of the Affordable Care Act in funding health centers like Neighborhood Family Practice and making sure that citizens can get quality health care. Kaptur presented Neighborhood Family Practice with a flag that once flew over the nation's capital.

Edison Project to add 300 luxury apartments to area east of W. 65th and north of Breakwater

by Ryan Bonds

Several factories that lined the railroad tracks along the Shoreway near Edgewater Park are being replaced by over 300 new luxury apartments and 24 townhouses.

The massive Edison Project developed by the NPR Group will feature just over 300 apartments. It is slated to be completed in 2017 in the area between Breakwater and the railroad tracks from W. 65th to W. 58th except for Southwest Corner of that area on which another developer is building 24 townhouses to be called Breakwater Bluffs.

Ward 15 Councilman Matt Zone thinks new building projects like The Edison are going to bring back Clevelanders and new faces to the now thriving area. In addition to young millennials and professionals migrating to the complex, there will be people who return to the city.

"You're going to get empty nesters. People who spent their adult years, their married years, living in the 'burbs, who now are empty nesters," he said. "They don't have any kids or their kids are moved out and they want a higher quality of life so we're starting to see, with not only development patterns but migration patterns, where now you get 'boomerangers' who grew up in the neighborhoods of Cleveland, moved out to raise their family because of schools or safety matters [and are coming back]."

Currently, Cleveland's population decrease is beginning to level out after losing roughly 200,000 residents over the past twenty years. Overall, the past three to five years have only seen a marginal decline

in population, while expansions like The Edison and various other apartment complexes are attracting new residents. Eventually, the steady decline could become steady growth.

The Gordon Square Arts District in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood is home to the new massive apartment complex. The arts district is growing in diversity and has a thriving theater district.

The \$10 million apartment complex will be priced at market rates, which would still bring a major influx of wealth to the already established businesses, according to the NPR Group, the developer of the project.

The Edison will offer different options for residents. Some cheaper apartments will be available at \$1,000 per month and there could be townhouses that rent for more than \$2,000 a month.

According to Zone, the complex is being built on the ten-acre lot that used to house Westinghouse, Hill Acme and other buildings have been abandoned for more than a decade.

Before construction could begin on the Edison complex, the factories had to be torn down and the land cleared and cleaned of potential contamination. Construction should take about 20 months to complete.

These new developments are going up on land that some 90 years ago was the home of the Hill Clutch Machine and Foundry Co. and the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company.

Westinghouse, which was founded in Pittsburgh in the 1880s, created some of the greatest marvels in electricity and various other ventures.

Hill Clutch Machine and Foundry, also known as the Hill Acme Co., had its roots on W. 65th Street in 1906. The company focused on manufacturing vehicle parts through the 1950s and supplied the Chevy and General Motors factories.

After absorbing another company in the 1930s, Hill Acme CO. expanded the line of products it manufactured to garden equipment and aviation parts. Unlike Westinghouse, Hill Acme CO. still exists in Canada. All, or parts of these buildings, will be gone by stage four of the build.

Companies like these used to be the backbone of Cleveland's infrastructure.

"Manufacturing is really important and that's kind of what built us out and developed and built out our neighborhood," Ward 15 Councilman Zone said. "Most of the factories in that area were over 100-years-old, the manufacturers, the titans. As deficiencies came with operations of basic manufacturing, the multi floor buildings that had multiple people working on them were a really inefficient way of buildings things."

With the flight of manufacturing and businesses to suburbs, it has taken years to rebuild, but projects like the Edison point to a rebirth in the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood.

Zone welcomes the Edison project but also notes that it joins efforts to support more modest housing so the Gordon Square Arts District retains its diversity and doesn't become too expensive.

"We knew that we had a pretty solid master plan for the neighborhood

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

The Edison complex, in the process of construction, viewed from W. 65th Street.



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Greater Cleveland Congregations responds to Dan Gilbert's offer of "Improvements" to the Q Deal

MORE FUNDS NEEDED FOR A COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT

submitted by GCC 4/24/17

Since January when the Quicken Loans Arena deal was first announced, Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) has been vocal and active in its support for equity and fairness to bring prosperity to downtown and our neighborhoods. GCC acknowledges the important first steps laid out in today's (4/24/17) announcement of improvements to the deal before the Cleveland City Council. Furthermore, GCC recognizes Dan Gilbert and Rock Ventures' track record on minority hiring and inclusion.

However, in 2017, high levels of inclusion of minorities and women should be a universal standard applied across an industry, not an exception to an all-to-often discriminatory practice. Furthermore, the cited additional elements of this deal are inadequate "perks" to a city that is in a de facto state of emergency in street violence, poverty, environmental health hazards and epidemic levels of overdose and addiction.

This deal continues to remain well short of what is the national trend in community benefits agreements related to the use of public money in its scope, scale, and substance. Today's announcement flies in the face of the Community Benefits Agreements happening in cities across the country, where faith communities, labor unions, civic groups and civil rights organizations have worked diligently and cooperatively with the public and private sector to create these agreements.

Greater Cleveland Congregations cites the following articles about Community Benefit Agreements

resulting from public money given to a stadium, an arena, and a development project in other cities.

An article in *For Working Families* by Ben Beach notes that \$320 Million in public financing in 2009 for the PPG Paints Arena in Pittsburgh resulted in the following community benefits: \$8.3 million in neighborhood improvements; \$2 million toward a new neighborhood grocery (\$1 million in URA grants/ \$1 million from the Pittsburgh Penguins); \$500,000 for 6-12 years for Economic Development, Youth Services, Mental Health Support and Green Space Expansion; and creation of a multi-purpose Neighborhood Community Center.

An article by Carla Caldwell in the *Atlanta Business Chronical* on November 26, 2013 is titled "New Falcons Stadium community benefits plan approved." In exchange for \$200 million in public financing for Falcons Stadium the Atlanta Economic Development Authority promised \$15 million for distressed neighborhoods. That amount was matched with another \$15 million from team owner Arthur Blanks' Family Foundation.

An article by Luke Broadwater in the *Baltimore Sun* titled "Baltimore officials approve \$100 million community benefits deal with Port Covington developers" notes the community benefit deal negotiated when \$660 million in public bonds were used for a Baltimore development project. The community benefits agreement included \$35 million for recreational facilities, summer youth

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Monday, April 17, 2017; Dyngus Day Celebration, W. 58th and Detroit: Dingus Day celebrants enjoying the festivities.

City officials present plan for the West Side Market parking lot

At an April 19th meeting with representatives from the City of Cleveland Department of Public Works, West Side Market Tenants received an update on the City of Cleveland's plans for the West Side Market Parking Lot.

City officials said that when they start charging for parking, there will be 1 1/2 hours free and \$1 per hour after the free period --up to a maximum charge of \$10.

While the 1 1/2 hour free period is better for market merchants than the 1 hour period the city initially proposed, several West Side Market

merchants expressed concern that the lot is still open to anyone that wants to park there instead of just West Side Market shoppers. Merchants said that will result in workers from neighborhood businesses being able to park there all day for only \$10. They said that people going to ball games downtown or downtown workers will take advantage of the

lot by parking there and walking over the bridge or taking the rapid to downtown, rather than paying the higher parking fees downtown. West Side Market merchants expressed concern that all these competing uses will lessen the number of spots available for West Side Market shoppers.

THE EDISON

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moving forward and if we were going to be successful with our capital campaign on creating the Gordon Square Arts District, I was always very cognizant of the fact that I did not want the neighborhood to gentrify," he said.

"We've worked extremely hard at doing quite a bit of in-fill housing. From about 2004 to about 2014 we bidded about \$40-million worth of historical and low income tax credit projects that yielded about 300 units of affordable housing, ensuring that there would be long-term affordability built into the neighborhood."

According to Zone, there has been an economic and business

renaissance in his West Side ward over the past decade.

"Since 2007 we've opened 94 new businesses in Cleveland," he said, "which have created over 700 full-time jobs and contributes mightily to the local economy in that area."

The new jobs make housing options like The Edison more feasible and possible. Without a strong economy, places to go and a variety of accommodations for new residents, it wouldn't make sense for anybody to come into the city, not just the people who will be living in luxury apartments next summer.

Losing historical pieces of Cleveland's history is bittersweet, but as the city evolves, new developments like The Edison Project are pushing Cleveland forward.

Former home of Ram Electronics to get a facelift

by John Kinsley

One of the "thinnest" buildings on West 25th Street, home most recently to RAM Electronics, is about to get a face lift.

The three-story building at 1898 W. 25th St. was designed in 1892 by architect Bernard Van Develde, who had designed other buildings in the last part of the 19th century for the Roman Catholic diocese in Cleveland.

Doug Perkowski, the owner of West 25 Street Lofts, purchased the building Nov. 15th from Joseph Danon. Perkowski owns several other buildings on West 25th, including the Merrell Building, the Metzner Building, and the Soho Building.

For a long time, Perkowski said, he wanted to buy the building which housed RAM Electronics, and once the company exited the area, he was able to do so, officially purchasing the rights to the building in November. The project is not complete quite yet, Perkowski said, but it is in the beginning stages.

"We've already made a drawing for the design on the front of the building, which will be renovated," Perkowski said.

Indeed, tentative plans call for the first floor to include a new aluminum storefront, restoration of existing leaded glass windows, and a new prefinished aluminum knee-wall, although a second option would use painted wood knee-wall-- otherwise known as a small wall used to support the rafters in construction.

The second floor will keep the existing windows and trim and include a new projecting bay window and a new recessed painted wood trim.

Perkowski said that tenants in the building would likely be retail or dining.

as Neuman Sanford A. Dresses, but around 1951, the structure became vacant. This continued well into the 1960s.

Around 1978, the area became D & K Stores. This store was a part of the ceramic industry, making material out of clay such as pottery, furnaces, and porcelains. However, around 1997 the space became vacant once again.

Later, RAM Electronics World, owned by Rick Neiditz, moved into the building. The store sold used electronic products such as TVs, Stereos, VCRs, camcorders. It also sold parts, supplies and accessories and made repairs as well. Neiditz, who also owned an east side electronics business, moved the remaining inventory to that location prior to closing the W. 25th Street store last year.

The building was previously owned and managed by Alan M. Krause as early as August 2nd, 1963. Krause himself transferred the building to a different owner, Ronald J. Roth, on October 8th before reclaiming the property on January 29th, 1968. On May 27th, 1988, Krause transferred the property once again, this time to Joseph Danon, the last owner until Perkowski purchased the building.



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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, April 14, 2017; Good Friday Procession, Clark Avenue between W. 25th and Scranton: The Good Friday Procession nears its destination at St. Michael's Church on Scranton. The procession began at La Sagrada Familia Church at W. 79th and Detroit Avenue.

Building at 1822-1826 W. 25th housed many businesses over the years

by Tommy Carosielli

In the hustle and bustle of Ohio City, a small building stuck between two popular businesses may be lost in the shuffle. But diving into the history of the building at 1822-1826 W 25th St. provides a peak into Ohio City's interesting history. Local architectural historian Craig Bobby estimates the building was constructed sometime between 1896 and 1912.

The simple one-story red brick building glossed with a pale white paint encompassing the front can easily be passed over when scanning the West 25th Street landscape. Simply enough, the building is bland. There is no sign looking to illuminate

the street-front. Only a small stand in front, "A-Tek Computer Services, Inside Taubman Law" at 1826 W. 25th Street, and a sign for Pizza Whirl at 1822 W. 25th.

But the current state of this building is no reflection on the history of 1822-1826 West 25th St.

The building first appears in City of Cleveland cross section directories in 1930, as Friedlander, Inc.

Friedlander was known as "The Ladies' Furnishings." It was a women's department store and from the looks of research was the top of the line for women's furnishings. The space, however, appeared too humble for the family-owned store, as it moved down the street to 2036

W 25th St. in 1932 to expand the store.

In 1938, the building was home to Variety Café, the start of a long history with the food industry. From 1938 until 1977, the building in some way or another served Ohio City as a small restaurant that changed hands a few times. The Variety Café, the innovator, lasted until 1942.

In 1943, The Variety Café was then bought by Theo Meconite. He opened Theo Meconite's Beer & Restaurant. Meconite held the second longest tenured business at 1826 W 25th, with only eight years in business. The small tap house thrived as World War II endured. However, as the decade turned, the small diner began to decline, and Meconite's was forced to sell, making way for the most fruitful business to inhabit the building.

After a year of vacancy, the Welcome Inn Café Restaurant opened its doors in 1953. The Café began the golden age of the establishment, having moved from down the street at 1811. Upon opening, the Wel-

continued on page 8

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Dirty deed done by corruptors

by Roldo Bartimole

Well, the dirty deed was done.

They always had the votes. Eleven of 17 votes were there.

But they wanted one more. Why?

To rush the job.

You see quick and dirty works better for muggers.

COMMENTARY

It took a bit of trickery as usual. In a last-minute maneuver city hall leadership and the Cavs' owner Dan Gilbert offered little gifts to seemingly make a Yes vote more palatable. See what we got for you! Aren't you happy? It's a Komoroski special. Such cheap gimmickry.

Did they really believe they were being generous? Did they think anyone with any sense would know this was masquerading as charity?

They would shift some donation money to Habitat for Humanity, which if it had integrity would refuse this "bribe." The Cavs would refurbish (whatever that means) 20 gym floors in Cleveland schools (at the same time it is exempted millions in property taxes that would go mostly to the Cleveland schools) and do some zigzag on admission taxes, which should never go to them in the first place.

A simple shell game works. With the help of a compliant news media (Scene excepted.)

The deal is that they had to borrow money now and pay for it later. It costs more that way. But who is paying?

The city money to pay for this Gilbert expansion won't begin to be paid until 2024. Gilbert doesn't care. He's not paying the carrying charge. Apparently neither does City Council or the mayor's office.

"It took a bit of trickery as usual. In a last-minute maneuver city hall leadership and the Cavs' owner Dan Gilbert offered little gifts to seemingly make a Yes vote more palatable."

Why? Because Gilbert is already the beneficiary of the city's admission tax as it is already being used to pay for OTHER bonds on the arena. It's been pretty much a secret for decades. This debt dates to the 1990s when the County borrowed tens of millions of dollars to pay for arena overruns. The former occupants, the Gund brothers, wanted extras, greedy as the present occupants. They weren't paying the bills either.

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GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS

continued from page 5

jobs and scholarships, \$25 million commitment to train new workers, and \$10 million in no-interest loans for minority and women startups.

Editor's Note: The above is a statement issued by Greater Cleveland Congregations on April 24th, 2017 upon hearing about some "perks" Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert offered in pursuing public money to expand the Q. That evening, April 24, 2017 Cleveland City Council voted 12-5 to commit \$88 million for expansion of the Quicken Loans Arena. Other public monies from Cuyahoga County and Destination are already going toward financing the project. According to an article by Robert Higgs in the April 25th Plain Dealer, "Council Approves \$88 million for arena", the Cavs ownership agreed to contribute dollars if debt service

exceeds what the City of Cleveland takes in admission tax for any given year; they agreed to refurbish 20 plus gym floors in Cleveland recreation centers and some floors in Cleveland high school gyms. The Cavaliers agreed to donate funds from road game watch parties to Habitat for Humanity to renovate 100 homes over three years (the money was previously donated to other charities). Ward 14 Councilman Brian Cummins who previously had voted against the project going forward, voted with the majority on April 24th. This allowed the project to have the needed 12 votes to be fast tracked as an emergency measure and take effect immediately.

On April 26th, Greater Cleveland Congregations announced they will be joining in a coalition that is circulating petitions to bring the issue before Cleveland voters.

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Lou Tisler, Executive Director

Ohio House budget proposal makes some improvements, but still underinvests

by Zach Schiller

On April 25th, the Republican majority of the Ohio House of Representatives announced its proposal for the next two-year state budget. Despite some improvements, the new House plan remains an underinvestment budget that provides inadequate resources for Ohio's needs.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The proposal includes some welcome additional support for opioid treatment, children's services and certain other human services, along with modest additions to K-12 spending. The changes also include \$2 million to support employment and training programs for people eligible for food assistance (SNAP) and improvements in how Ohio regulates for-profit career colleges, both of which were needed and will help many access higher-quality training. In a positive step, the plan also scraps Governor Kasich's proposed income-tax cuts and sales-tax rate increase, which would further weight the tax system in favor of affluent Ohioans.

However, the House Republican plan also contains some significant

negatives, such as seeking federal approval for work requirements for many of the 700,000 Ohioans who benefitted from Medicaid expansion. Modest spending additions the governor had proposed for higher education and need-based financial aid for students were eliminated.

Major questions also remain unanswered, such as how the House will handle the significant cuts looming for counties and transit agencies if a replacement for sales tax from Medicaid managed care organizations is not provided. News reports indicate that the majority's plan only takes into account about half of the \$400 million in annual spending reductions that will be necessary, based on the latest projections. This casts a shadow over the new proposal, and underlines that the state needs more revenue to meet basic needs, including the more robust severance tax that the plan rejects. Only when full details of the new plan have been released will a full appraisal of it be possible.

Editor's Note: Zach Schiller is the Research Director at Policy Matters Ohio, a nonprofit policy research institute.

COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

know how many volunteers to prepare for.

THE SPECIAL OHIO CITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT provides safety and maintenance services through the employment of ambassadors. The boundaries of the new Ohio City Improvement District will nearly double in size and will include new services like district-wide sidewalk snow removal, a late-night safety program, and public realm enhancements. Learn about the Ohio City Improvement District, meet the ambassadors and celebrate the expansion with us May 1st, 5:00-6:30pm, at 2706 Franklin Boulevard. Snacks and light refreshments will be served.

RECREATION

BASEBALL REGISTRATION with Near West Recreation is now open! The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, May 3rd. Near West Recreation offers 4 coed divisions: tee-ball (ages 4-6), coach pitch (ages 7-8), minor league (ages 9-10) and major league (11-13). The season takes place from mid-May to the end of July. Teams practice once a week, and play games on Saturdays. Cost is \$25 per child for tee-ball and coach pitch and \$40 per child for minor and major league. Financial assistance is available. Week of May 7 - Coaches and Parents Meeting. Week of May 15 - Practices Start. Friday, June 2 - Opening Day/Picture Day. Saturday, June 3 - First Saturday of games. Saturday, July 29 - Last Saturday of games and end of season celebration day. Coaches needed for all divisions!!! Commitment level is about 3-4 hours per week. To register your children, if you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Keri Palma at nearwestrec@ohiocity.org or 216-781-3222 x 108.

SENIORS

SENIOR DAY presented by the Cleveland Dept. of Aging is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24 at Cleveland Public Hall at 500 Lakeside Ave. in downtown Cleveland. Information Fair starts at 10 am, Program at 11 am, Lunch at noon, and Entertainment at 12:30 pm. All seniors are invited to attend this free event. For more information, call 216/664-2833 or visit www.cleveland-oh.gov/aging.

SOLID WASTE

COMPUTER DROP-OFF. The city of Cleveland and the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District have teamed up to recycle unwanted computer equipment from Cleveland residents. All collected computer equipment will either be upgraded and distributed to schools or recycled. Year Around Drop Off from Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Ridge Road Service Station, 3727 Ridge Road. Accepted are CPUs, monitors, keyboards, computer mice, printers, modems, software, ink cartridges, cell phones. Not accepted: TV's and other electronics. Call 216/664-3717 for additional information.

FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING. Residents can drive up and drop off documents or stay and watch the 4,500 pound per hour shredder in action. Limit 3 boxes or bags per person. Monday through Friday from 9 am to 3 pm at the Division of Waste Collection, 5600 Carnegie Avenue. Call 216/664-3717 for more information.

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 30.

VOLUNTEER

GREATER CLEVELAND VOLUNTEERS seeks individuals age 18 years or older to volunteer at nonprofit organizations throughout Cuyahoga County. For a complete list of volunteer opportunities, visit geaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS CAN VOLUNTEER WITH THE INTERRELIGIOUS TASK FORCE ON CENTRAL AMERICA: Advocacy, nonviolence, education, fair trade, direct action, outreach, prayer, human rights, special events, solidarity, office work, and organizing action groups (Indigenous and Afro-Descendant, environmental human rights, exploited labor, demilitarization and nonviolence, fair trade, and LGBTQ solidarity). Set your own hours (4-40 hours per week) and the number of weeks. Deadlines: August 15 for fall



Tuesday, April 4, 2017; Announcement of joint PNC Foundation and DonorsChoose.org initiative to help preschools, Centers for Families and Children Gordon Square Early Learning Center, 5209 Detroit Avenue: PNC Bank employee Ann McCarthy-Garland reads a story to a classroom of attentive children.

PNC INITIATIVE

continued from page one

Clark said the new initiative will fund projects in 22 states and the Washington D.C. area where PNC has a presence. He described four major elements of the new initiative.

The new initiative would immediately provide a \$504,000 cash donation to fund 849 projects requesting funding for public and charter pre-K classrooms in areas served by PNC bank.

The partnership with PNC bank will, for the first time, allow Head Start teachers to request resources through the DonorsChoose.org website.

During the campaign, PNC Foundation will match, dollar for dollar, donations made to pre-K requests in its service area on DonorsChoose.org.

PNC Bank will provide 14,500 employees, that volunteered in 2016, with \$50 gift cards they can apply to project requests on DonorsChoose.org. In addition, PNC says "employees are paid up to 40 hrs./year to support pre-K children and contribute to their personal well-being through classroom volunteerism." Employees can also earn grants for classrooms where they volunteer.

Following his remarks Clark said each classroom at the Gordon Square Early Learning Center would receive a \$500 gift card to be used for the educational program of their

semester, December 15 for spring semester and April 30 for summer. Workshops available. Submit inquiries to irtf@irtfcleveland.org, 216/961-0003 or IRTF, 3606 Bridge Ave., Cleveland, OH 44113

YOUTH

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT is an exhibit created by the Bath and Copley 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, 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 Copley 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.

choice. He then presented two wagons filled with educational products such as iPads, books, blocks and a variety of educational products and instructional aides. The children present immediately unloaded the wagons, examining the games and colorful products. One young child went up to Clark and said, "Thank you Mr. Clark."

Elizabeth Newman, President of the Centers for Families and Children expressed her gratitude to Paul Clark and PNC Bank and "our new friend, DonorsChoose.org." She said the donations will provide teachers with much needed supplies. "So much is possible when we reach children at this critical time," said Newman.

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DIRTY DEED

continued from page 6

So even what they want to do will cost much more than it should.

The reason is simple. The admission tax, the source of the city's \$88 million gift for this theft or gift, as you look at it, is still being used annually to pay for bonds for overruns on the original sin.

That's why they don't start repay-

ment until 2024. They are already gifting city admission taxes to pay for the Q until the year 2023, as they have for decades. Last year alone city admission taxes of \$5,473,930 were used to repay the old bonds.

West Side Councilman Brian Cummins caved Monday night and gave Council President Kevin Kelley the 12th vote needed to pass the legislation by a 2/3 vote and give it an early start. It is a vote he will carry with him throughout his career.

The five who stood firm were Kevin Conwell, T. J. Dow, Mike Polensek, Jeff Johnson and Zach Reed.

Of course, the new addition will also escape property taxes since the sports building, or shall we say our new non-taxed Cathedrals, are tax exempted, thanks to former politicians. Mayor Frank Jackson was not at the meeting last night. Soon, one hopes, he will not be accommodated at Monday night meetings for other reasons than an unexplained absence.

Now it's up to citizens whether our political leaders and sports owners get away with another theft of public funds.

It will happen again if they aren't stopped now.

Editor's Note: This article was first published by *Have Coffee Will Write* on April 25, 2017 the day after Cleveland City Council voted to borrow \$88 million dollars to give to Cavaliers' owner, billionaire Dan Gilbert, to expand the Quicken Loans Arena. The loans will be paid back with interest beginning in 2024 using City of Cleveland admissions tax revenue. To view more articles by Roldo Bartimole online visit <http://havecoffeewillwrite.com>.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, April 14, 2017; Franklin Boulevard, between W. 65th and W. 85th: Members of the Franklin Block Club are hoping to save their trees while Dominion Gas Company replaces gas pipes in the neighborhood. Fences are placed around each tree on the tree lawns with signs that say: "This tree shall be protected during construction. Do not cut branches or roots without prior written permission from City Forester Jennifer Braman. Call the City Forester at 216-664-3104 with questions. The Franklin Block Club will be watching during construction."

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1822-1826 W. 25TH

continued from page 6

come Inn Café Restaurant became a cornerstone of the neighborhood. It was open for more than 20 years. In 1976 the Welcome Inn finally closed its doors.

Then, in 2009, with a fresh coat of navy blue paint with yellow trim around the windows, a former college football player at the University of Miami, Johnny Smatana, stepped through the doors of 1826 W 25th and called it home to his business, Johnnyville Slugger, now known as Johnnyville Woods. The custom baseball bat shop staked home to, "The Greatest Man Cave East of the Mississippi."

The storefront could not be more different than it is today. Yes, the paint was different, but Johnnyville Woods was characterized by a giant, oversized baseball cap crowning the store like a gargantuan star atop a Christmas tree. It was bold, noticeable, and fun. Big, bold bubble letters stretched across the front and let everyone know exactly where to

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, March 25, 2017; Clean-up of W. 73rd Community Coalition lot at W. 73rd and Neville: Rachel Diaz rakes up debris in the vacant lot. Rachel and her siblings helped clean up the vacant lot in their neighborhood. The Diaz children shared some ideas as to how they would like the lot to be used. Some of their suggestions included: a dog park, a playground, a community garden and houses.

find the self-proclaimed "Batman of W 25th."

A business that started in a barn, Johnnyville Slugger replaced a small deli, Gateway Food Mart, owned by two Arabic men, "When I moved in I was still paying their back taxes. I'm not sure what happened with them. I had an opportunity, so I jumped at it."

Smatana is never one to pull punches. Quick with a joke and brutally honest, he greets you with a smile and a hearty handshake. But Smatana then butted heads with the man who owned the building, Tom Gillisee, and elected to move his business in 2013 to his current home in the E. 5th Street Arcade, where "The Great Mancave East of the Mississippi" still exists today.

After a year of vacancy, Taubman Law moved into the building. With nearly 50 years of experience between them, Bruce and Brian Taubman look to serve citizens of the greater Akron/Cleveland area in

manners of personal injury, medical malpractice, workman's compensation, and employee discrimination. They thrive on the honesty and caring attitude that has kept Taubman Law strong since 1976. However, because they recently moved into 1826 W 25th, the property is still being developed to fit their personal look. With only a piece of paper in a sheet protector taped to the door to label the address as theirs, it is readily apparent that the firm is more focused on clients than appearance.

In the storefront at 1822 W. 25th, just north of Taubman Law in the same building, a new business, Pizza Whirl, has opened. The Ohio Secretary of State's office indicates the company is registered in the name of Ahmad Douglas.

If you were to walk West 25th today, you probably wouldn't give the building a second thought, but the lineage of this location reflects Ohio City's culinary history long before the neighborhood became branded as the Artisan Neighborhood. You never know what you'll find when you dive into history.

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