



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Tuesday, August 22, 2017, Ward 14 Primary Council Candidates Community Forum, 3150 W. 58<sup>th</sup>, Church of God: Mary Rose Oakar, who served as moderator for the forum, stresses to those in attendance the importance of each person's vote.

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# Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

## Ward 14 candidates answer questions at Community Forum

by Chuck Hoven

Three out of the five candidates for the Ward 14 City Council seat attended a candidates' community forum on August 22<sup>nd</sup> at the W. 58<sup>th</sup> Street Church of God. The thirty people in attendance were given

an opportunity to submit questions to the candidates and listen to their responses.

The three candidates participating in the forum were Nelson Cintron, Jr., Brian Cummins and Omar Medina. The two candidates not in

attendance were: Kyle Cassidy and Jasmine Santana.

Mary Rose Oakar, a former State School Board member, Congresswoman and City Councilperson, served as the moderator. She noted the forum would follow League of Women's Voters rules.

Each candidate was allowed a representative to review written questions submitted by audience members. Ten of the thirteen questions submitted were answered by candidates during the forum. Forum organizer Gloria Ferris promised to place all the questions submitted on Facebook so candidates and ward residents could view them.

In addition to being allowed one minute to answer each question, candidates were given three minutes for an opening statement and two minutes for a closing statement.

In his opening statement, Omar Medina urged voters to "elect a candidate that is going to be there for you, not themselves or special interest groups." Medina also offered some information about his involvement in the community. He said for 20 years he has been a respected leader in the community. Medina said he was one of the few people to testify before County Council about budget cuts, that would severely impact social service

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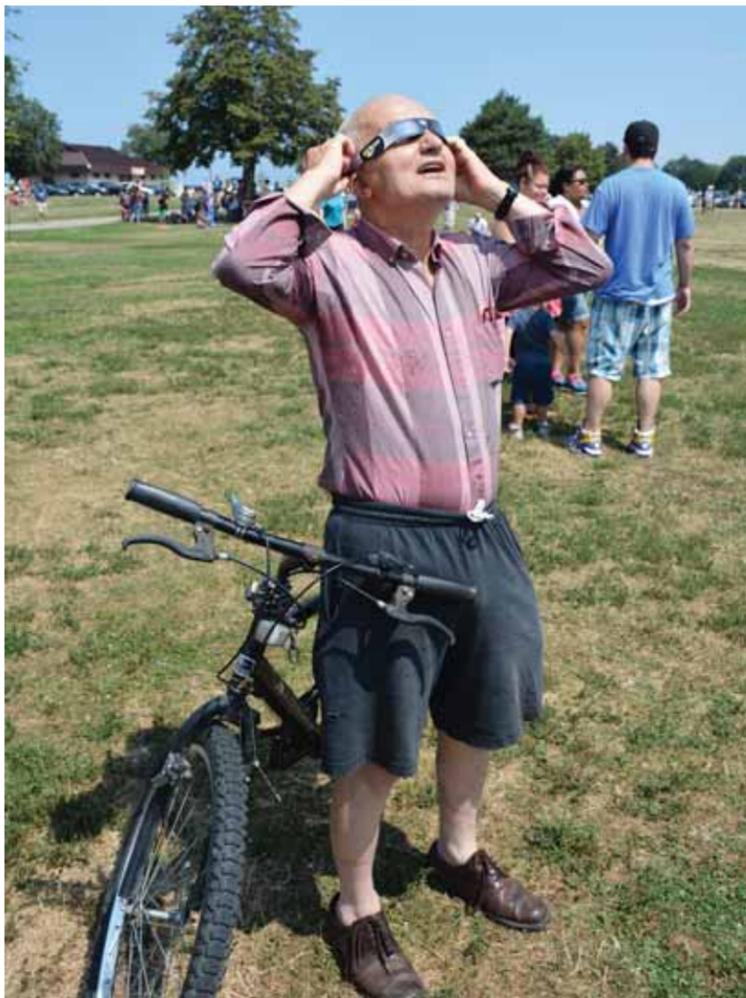


PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Monday, August 21, 2017, Eclipse Across America, Edgewater Park: Ahmed Morad, a resident of the West Boulevard neighborhood who helps to distribute the Plain Press, views the Solar Eclipse through Solar Viewing Glasses provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

## NOBLE urges action on State budget issues

Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE) urges Ohioans to call state officials to tell them to keep Medicaid expansion in place in Ohio, and to protect transit agencies and county governments from major cuts in revenue.

Medicaid Expansion: Your action is urgently needed TODAY! The Fight for Medicaid Expansion is not over! We need your help to ensure that individuals will continue to have access to affordable health care.

All calls need to be made by September 6<sup>th</sup> to ensure that our voices are heard BEFORE their vote on these issues later that afternoon.

NOBLE needs you to contact the following Representatives and Senators with these messages:

**House Action:** Senate President Larry Obhof wants the House to end Medicaid Expansion enrollment effective July 1, 2018. Those that are currently on the program and lose coverage due to finding employment would not be able to reapply after July 1, 2018. This would quickly end health coverage for tens of

thousands of Ohioans.

We urge you to contact the following Representatives and tell them: Do not override the Governor's veto of the Medicaid Freeze.

**Contact:** Representative Mike Duffey, 614-644-6030 [ben.james@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:ben.james@ohiohouse.gov); Representative Nathan Manning, 614-644-5076 [joe.gruber@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:joe.gruber@ohiohouse.gov); Representative Jeff Rezabek, 614-466-2960 [kevin.boehner@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:kevin.boehner@ohiohouse.gov); Representative Gary Scherer, 614-644-7928 [amanda.mccoy@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:amanda.mccoy@ohiohouse.gov).

**Senate Action:** 1. Don't override the veto of the Healthy Ohio Plan. 2. Don't override the veto of the freeze on Medicaid Expansion. 3. We hope that a good solution is reached allowing transit agencies and Counties to continue getting the \$200 million a year they would lose from the Managed Care Organization tax. If a solution can not be reached, we ask you to override the veto.

**Contact:** Senator Matt Dolan, 614-466-8056 [anthony.aquillo@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:anthony.aquillo@ohiosenate.gov); Senator Frank LaRose, 614-466-4823 [matt.mcdonnell@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:matt.mcdonnell@ohiosenate.gov); Senator Peggy Lehner, 614-466-4538 [David.cordonnier@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:David.cordonnier@ohiosenate.gov); Senator John Eklund, 614-644-7718 [elizabeth.cassell@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:elizabeth.cassell@ohiosenate.gov).

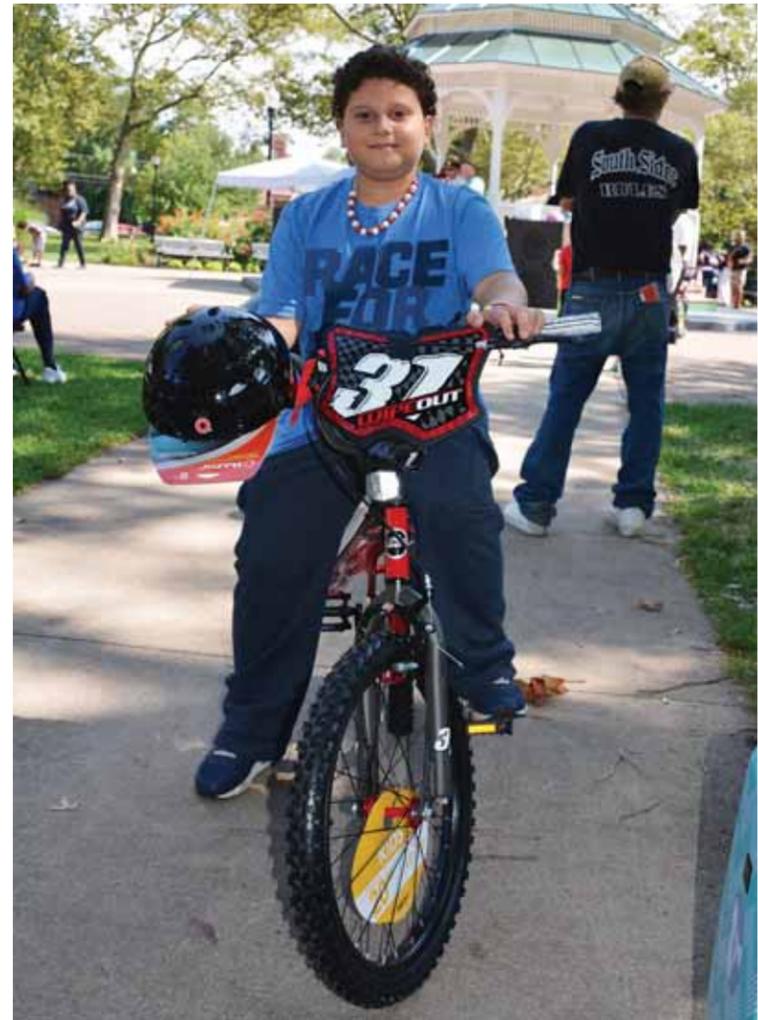


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, August 19, 2017; Tremont Voices Against Violence and Tremont Safety Committee Safety Fair, Lincoln Park, Tremont Neighborhood: Hector Nieves, age 10, won a new bicycle and a helmet in a drawing. The Tremont Safety Committee, the Cleveland Police Foundation and Cops for Kids donated six bicycles and bicycle helmets for the drawing.

## Cleveland Primary Election set for September 12th

The City of Cleveland will have a primary election on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Early voting began on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Those wishing to vote early can go to the Board of Elections at 2925 Euclid Avenue. You can visit them

online at [boe.cuyahogacounty.us](http://boe.cuyahogacounty.us) for a list of early voting hours --besides regular business hours, they offer some evening and weekend voting times. To get an absentee ballot application, you can contact the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at: [www.443vote.com](http://www.443vote.com) or

by calling 216-443-3298.

Primary voters will narrow the field for the race for Mayor of the City of Cleveland from eleven candidates down to two. There will be nine mayoral candidates on the ballot

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, August 22, 2017, Tremont Farmers' Market, Lincoln Park: Tremont resident, Martha Lineberger, purchases some fruit from Dale Wolf at the Woolf Farms stand. The Woolf Farms stand, manned by Dale Wolf and Bill Bense, offered a selection of peaches, apples, corn, tomatoes plums and pears. Dale Wolf says Woolf Farms grows 65 different varieties of apples and will soon have apple cider for sale.



# The Community Board

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

## ARTS AND CULTURE

**NEAR WEST THEATRE - Free, After School Program – “RISE”:** For students and residents of Detroit Shoreway, ages 9 to 15, who want to sing, dance, act, discover hidden talents, gain confidence, work as a team, and build lasting friendships. Fall Session: Sept 25 to November 3 (6 weeks) with Public Performance on Nov 3. Spring Session: Mar 12 to April 20; Summer Session: June 4 to July 13. Mon, Wed, Fri from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Applications are being accepted today. Visit [nearwesttheatre.org](http://nearwesttheatre.org) or call 216-961-9750 for information on how you can apply. No experience needed. Location: Near West Theatre, 6702 Detroit Avenue.

**COMMISSIONER NEEDED THE CLEVELAND COMMUNITY POLICE COMMISSION** (the “Commission”) is one of the mechanisms within the Consent Decree entered into between the City of Cleveland and the U. S. Department of Justice to promote ongoing community input in: the development of reforms, the establishment of police priorities, and the increasing of community confidence in the Cleveland Division of Police (the “CDP”). Commission applicants should be aware that

participation constitutes a significant commitment of time, possibly one day or more per week and is an unpaid position. To be eligible for appointment to the Commission, an individual must meet one of two eligibility requirements: the applicant must either (1) reside or (2) work in the City of Cleveland at the time the application is submitted for review by the Selection Panel. Applications for the current vacant Community Police Commission position must be submitted and received by September 8, 2017, or have been placed in the regular U.S. mail and having a postmark that is on or before September 8, 2017. For more information, visit <http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us>.

## COMPUTERS

Are you lacking **BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS** which are holding you back from getting a job, restricting you at work, or limiting you in life? Digital C, through its ReStart technology skills building program, will teach **basic computer** classes for the beginner at the West Side Catholic Center. The three-week program, will be held twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, beginning on September 12<sup>th</sup>. There is no charge. All are wel-

comed. Classes will be offered again in November. To register, please call Frank Johaneck at 216-631-4741 ext. 167 (or Julia McKey at that number before September 6). Located at 3135 Lorain Avenue.

## ELDERS

**ANNUAL SENIOR WALK**, a free one or two-mile fun walk, is scheduled for Thursday, September 7 on Mall C in downtown Cleveland. Registration and health screenings at 8:45 am, brief program at 9:30 am, and walk begins at 10 am. If it is raining, walk will be inside public hall. To register, call the Cleveland Department of Aging at 216/664-6152.

## EVENTS

**THE OHIO CITY STREET FESTIVAL**, a neighborhood celebration, will be held on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from noon to 8pm. Food from neighborhood restaurants & West Side Market vendors; local beer from Great Lakes Brewing Company, Market Garden Brewery, and Platform Brewery; live music and arts entertainment from the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland Public Theatre, and local artists So Fun Studio, and the KeyBank Kid Zone. For more information, visit [ohiocity.org/OHCStreetFest](http://ohiocity.org/OHCStreetFest). **FREE** and open to all!! Volunteer shifts are available. They are about 2 hours long, and participants receive a complimentary beer ticket to enjoy after their volunteer shift is over. Questions? E-mail Hattie Kotz at [hkotz@ohiocity.org](mailto:hkotz@ohiocity.org).

## HEALTHY COOKING

**HEALTHY HARVEST COOKING CLASS**, hosted by Neighborhood Family Practice (NFP), on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 PM and 3:00PM at NFP, 3569 Ridge Rd. Join NFP for a cooking class on low cost and healthy meal planning and preparation. The class will include: meal tasting, food preparation, kitchen tool giveaway, recipes to take home and much more! Only 10-12 participants/class. Space is limited. Please RSVP to Lindsay TODAY at 216.281.0872 ext. 294

**SALUD, COOKING CLASSES IN SPANISH.** Before you can cook up a nutritious meal for your family, you need access to fresh foods and healthy recipes with all of the flavors and ingredients your family loves. In partnership with Salud Popular, a community based organization that supports healthy food initiatives in Cleveland’s MetroWest neighborhood, Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth and Neighborhood Family Practice



**PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN**  
Sunday, August 20, 2017; **ciCLEvia** on Detroit Avenue: Ben Gelzer and his dog, Diesel, enjoy the festivities, taking advantage of the closure of a portion of Detroit Avenue to motorized vehicle traffic.

are sponsoring culturally fresh food delivery projects in identified Hispanic neighborhoods with wrap-around cooking classes. The cooking classes will be demonstrated in Spanish and feature healthy Hispanic recipes with culturally aligned ingredients. Participants will not only learn fun ways to make their favorite foods healthier, but will also get a crockpot to take home! For more information, visit <https://cometogether.cleveland-clinic.org/project/6572>

## HOMEOWNERSHIP

**HOMEToday.** For the fifth year, Third Federal Savings & Loan is teaming up with west side community development corporations to offer combined group educational sessions and personal counselling to teach the fundamental skills of good financial management and successful home ownership. As enrollees complete each step in the HomeToday process, each will be one step closer to successful homeownership. There are four HomeToday educational sessions offered during a 4-week period. Participants must attend the first

session before completing the remainder of the sessions. Individual counselling follows the completion of session four. Complete the seminar requirements, and Third Federal will provide \$3,000 toward the down payment of a home financed through Third Federal. Dates are October 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Each two-hour session begins at 6:30 pm with a light supper provided. Classes will be held at 6516 Detroit Avenue. Contact Third Federal at 216.441.7345 to reserve your seat

## LGBTQIA

**FREE SAFEZONE TRAINING** offered by The Ohio City Incorporated LGBTQIA Initiative for institutions and businesses working with, or wanting to better reach LGBTQIA populations. The SafeZone Training will give employees the general understanding and skills to turn their work environment into a place that is safe and inclusive for marginalized populations. Participants only need

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## Greater Cleveland Congregations challenge “the politics of privilege”

by Chuck Hoven

Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) has a simple idea, if we can raise huge sums of public money to benefit a downtown development project like the expansion of the Quicken Loans Arena (the Q), we should be able to raise a similar amount to address real needs of Cleveland residents such as mental health services and workforce development.

GCC challenged leaders in Cuyahoga County government and the City of Cleveland to come up with a Community Benefits agreement that would raise funds for community needs from developers getting a subsidy from public dollars. City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County officials largely ignored the pleas of the pastors and their congregations.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

Cuyahoga County Council and Cleveland City Council rushed to provide the subsidies to the Cavaliers billionaire owner Dan Gilbert, so he could expand the Quicken Loans Arena. The expansion of the Q would have allowed Gilbert to create bars and restaurants inside the Q, giving him a greater percentage of the before and after game and event business that now goes to restaurants and bars outside of the facility.

Cuyahoga County Council and Cleveland City Council refused to consider the GCC’s community benefits proposal. GCC then went directly to the people of Cleveland to gather signatures for a referendum on the legislation passed by the City of Cleveland to subsidize the Q. GCC, along with allies such as the Service Employees International Union and the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus, gathered over 20,000 signatures challenging Cleveland’s legislation to subsidize the expansion of the Q.

Cleveland City Council refused

to accept the petitions. GCC and its allies challenged the refusal to accept the referendum petitions in court. The case went all the way to the Ohio Supreme Court, and on August 10<sup>th</sup>, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the City Council should have followed the rules in Cleveland’s City Charter and validated the signatures to place the referendum on the ballot.

After the ruling, the Board of Elections certified that over 13,000 of the 20,000 plus signatures were valid, more than twice the roughly 6,000 signatures required to place the issue on the ballot. With the path cleared for Clevelanders to weigh in on the deal, Cleveland City Council was forced to place the issue on the ballot. Before City Council could vote on when the issue would go before the voters, Cleveland Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert decided on August 28th to withdraw his proposal to expand the Q.

Following Gilbert’s withdrawal of his proposal, GCC issued the following statement:

Since January, GCC has called on the Cavaliers, the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County to work on a substantive Community Benefits Agreement worthy of the \$160 million of public money directed to the Q Arena expansion. GCC makes no apologies for prioritizing ending the cycle of using our jails to house the mentally ill, or seeking to employ the jobless. GCC makes no apologies for standing up for our most vulnerable residents in our most distressed communities who feel like second class citizens in their own city. GCC makes no apologies for standing up for the 22,000 people who signed petitions and were subjected to voter suppression tactics rather being able to exercise their democratic rights. The loss of this deal squarely lies at the feet of those who

put old school politics above the interests of the people.

Countering the statement by GCC, Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish issued the following statement:

This is a significant loss for the community. It jeopardizes the future of two key economic generators: The Q and the Cavs. The deal would have guaranteed that the Cavs would stay in Cleveland through 2034 and it would have created and retained many hundreds of jobs for people living in our neighborhoods. And the deal did not raise anyone’s taxes. Contrary to misinformation put out by the opposition, the death of this deal actually means there will be less money, not more, available for social and community services for those most in need. By killing this deal, the opponents have harmed the future for our neighborhood residents.

Budish need look no further that his own words as to why public subsidies of over \$160 million to expand a sports arena are so wrong when there are so many unmet needs in Cleveland. In a statement Budish issued in response to the axing of the State of Ohio program to help disabled Ohioans, Budish said, “I believe that a government is judged by how we support our most vulnerable residents.”

It is ironic that Budish would offer this judgement of the State of Ohio government, and not see that Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland should be judged by the same standard.

Over a century ago, Cleveland Mayor Tom L. Johnson warned about the corrosive influence of the “politics of privilege” on our city.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN Saturday, August 19, 2017; La Placita in La Villa Hispana, U.S. Bank Lot at Clark and W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street: (L-R) Gabriel Matos and Francisco Santiago of the Kids of Cleveland Youth Organization are promoting a national campaign to urge Baseball Commissioner Robert Manfred to retire the number (#21) of Pittsburgh Pirate Hall of Famer Roberto Clemente. Those wishing to sign the petition can go to: [www.kocyo.org](http://www.kocyo.org).

In Cleveland today, the “politics of privilege” continues to haunt our city. City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County leaders continue to opt to provide substantial subsidies to

the projects of a handful of elite business owners, while efforts to address serious needs in the community remain woefully neglected and underfunded.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, August 19, 2017, Lincoln Park: Friends of Lincoln Park, formed in the summer of 2016, successfully raised funds and planned for this new gazebo to replace the old one. The group held a ceremony on Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup> to dedicate the new Lincoln Park Gazebo.

### WARD 14 CANDIDATES' FORUM

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agencies. Medina noted his involvement in working to address health disparities; his involvement with the local Community Development Corporation; and his work on social justice and educational issues.

Nelson Cintron, Jr. noted the flags from various nations hanging in the W. 58<sup>th</sup> Street Church of God. He talked of Ward 14 as a melting pot with people from many different nations making a home here. Cintron said most of his 51 years were spent in Cleveland, his family arriving here from Puerto Rico when he was only 31 days old.

Cintron talked of his time serving Ward 14 on Cleveland City Council where he said he sat on the two most powerful committees the Finance Committee and the Economic Development Committee. Cintron said that he used his participation on those committees to help bring needed jobs to the neighborhood. He said he helped with the expansion of Nestles, A. J. Rose, and McDonalds, as well as

the rehabilitation of the Lin Omni Building. Cintron said he also helped to secure resources for housing in the Tremont, Ohio City, and Clark Fulton neighborhoods.

Cintron said as Councilperson he sought advice from the leadership in the neighborhood including Mary Rose Oakar and Helen Smith, both of whom had served in Cleveland City Council prior to him.

Cintron said his family operates three radio stations, "helping people to have a voice." In closing, he said, "I will be a strong voice to help make Ward 14 a better place for us all to live."

Brian Cummins said, in the 12 years he has served on Cleveland City Council, his district has been re-districted twice. He said parts of the ward he now serves have only been in his ward since the last redistricting. He noted the movement of the western reach of the ward from W. 47<sup>th</sup> to W. 98<sup>th</sup> Street. Cummins said he serves on the Health and Human Services Committee, the Economic Development Committee and the Utilities Committee. He said he is

also a member of the Community Relations Board.

Cummins talked of his experience as a councilperson facing the challenge of representing a diverse neighborhood. He said the ward is now 41% Hispanic, 22% Black and 37% White.

Cummins talked of his personal history of service with the Peace Corps and the Salvation Army. He noted that, historically, the area served by Metro West Community Development Office had been left out of planning and development. He noted the increase in development in the area served by Metro West over the past seven years. He said his efforts to help fund literacy programs serving the neighborhood have helped put more resources toward improving literacy than there have been in the last 30 years.

Following the opening statements, each of the candidates gave answers to the written questions submitted by audience members.

The first question noted that the West Side of Cleveland was served by only two health inspectors and asked if a councilperson could have any influence in increasing the number of health inspectors.

Brian Cummins said since the passage of the tax levy, the administration is now hiring new inspectors. He said he will be able to have an

impact now as the newly appointed Chair of City Council's Health and Human Services Committee. Cummins also noted the involvement of Metro West Community Development Office in working with MetroHealth in what he called a "very aggressive program" to address healthy homes through a Build Health Challenge grant. Cummins noted his collaboration with other area councilmen in funding code enforcement work in the neighborhood.

Omar Medina said having enough health inspectors is a very important issue, and City Council members have influence and need to speak out. He said the city needs to show the importance of the issue by having the right resources to address it. He promised to work hard to guarantee the city has the resources and to ensure a coordinated effort to provide the necessary services.

Nelson Cintron, Jr. explained that council approves the budget for the various administrative departments during budget hearings. He said in the mid-term, the Mayor comes back to pull money from the departments to put into other projects. He said, "Council needs to hold the mayor accountable. Council has the power to tell the mayor how to spend the budget." Cintron said Council members don't need to be spending Community Development Block Grant dollars allocated to their wards for services that should be provided by city departments. He said that Council has the legislative authority to make sure money, allocated to the Health Department, doesn't end up somewhere else. "You need to be tough," said Cintron referring to City Council's role in providing legislative oversight of the executive branch in City Hall.

The next question asked what candidates would do to address the Regional Transit Authority changing bus routes and cutting service in the neighborhood.

Medina noted a great percentage of Ward 14 residents do not have cars. He said the Council representative needs to hold RTA accountable. He promised to hold public meetings to bring the concerns to RTA and put pressure on RTA.

Cintron said the Mayor makes recommendations to Council for their approval of appointees to the Regional Transit Authority Board. Council must hold those appointees accountable. He said he would hold hearings and bring those City appointed board members before

City Council and demand more resources for the neighborhoods. He said RTA is providing free service downtown while cutting services in the neighborhoods.

Cummins said it has been a challenge to get RTA to have changes in routes posted in advance. He said a stronger commitment by RTA is needed to provide these notices. Cummins said he was involved in the fight to get Public Square reopened to bus traffic. He noted the importance of bus service in a ward where 36% of the households do not have a car. Cummins said lack of State of Ohio funding for public transportation was the biggest problem.

The next questioner noted the unaffordability of houses in the Tremont and Ohio City area and asked how the Council candidate would make sure affordable houses were available in Ward 14.

Cintron said affordable housing was a "hot topic" of concern to Ward 14 residents. He said whenever a major project is built, he would make sure it includes affordable housing. Cintron said during his tenure in Cleveland City Council, he worked with the Land Trust to help make sure houses stayed affordable over time. He said he also worked with St. Ignatius High School, Cleveland Housing Network and Habitat for Humanity to provide affordable housing for residents.

Cummins said the Tremont neighborhood is not as gentrified as people think. He said 30% of the population of Tremont is low income. Cummins invited those present to a ribbon cutting on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. for 36 units of affordable housing at Meyer and W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street. He noted the recent awarding of \$5 million dollars to build 22 lease purchase houses in the Stockyard neighborhood, and Habitat for Humanity's plans to make 10 properties available on W. 51<sup>st</sup> and W. 52<sup>nd</sup> at 0% interest for 15 years.

Medina said, "Gentrification is a fear that exists in the minds of Ward 14 residents." He said people ask him, "What can you do to stop gentrification?" Medina said developers should be told, you can't build new without assurances that you are providing affordable housing for residents. Medina said help is also needed for people who own a home and want to keep it.

The next question was, "Will you support Metro West?"

Cummins said, "Absolutely will support them." He noted he will rely on Council Representatives Matt Zone, Kerry McCormack and Tony Brancatelli to make contributions as well. Cummins said over the past 7 years the organization has increased the number of demolitions and rehabilitation of housing. He said Metro West has strong programs addressing housing, building, education, literacy and health.

Medina also said he would "absolutely, support Metro West." He noted he served on their Advisory Council and said he is "proud of the work they do." Medina said he

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# Executive Director Katie Kelly updates Pre4CLE's progress

by M. Yesenia Summers

"Our vision is that every child in Cleveland will start kindergarten ready to succeed," says the Pre4CLE website. Pre4CLE is a program to ensure all 3-and 4- year old children in Cleveland have access to a high-quality preschool. I spoke with Katie Kelly, Executive Director of PRE4CLE.

### How is the PRE4CLE meeting its' goals?

"We just released an annual report last month that talked about a set of benchmarks to measure our progress towards all 3-4-year old children having access to quality preschool. One of our biggest benchmarks is how many 3- 4 -year old children are enrolled in a high, quality preschool. We set a goal that by the end of 2016, we would have an additional 2,000 additional children enrolled. We got very close to that goal, we reached 71% of that goal. There are a couple of reasons why we didn't fully reach that 2,000 but we were still really pleased with the increase that we had in high quality early learning and having a lot of additional children in those high-quality seats.

"We're also looking at access to preschools by neighborhoods, not just across the whole city, but making sure there is access to preschools in each of our neighborhoods. We saw a big increase the number of neighborhoods, where we are able to serve additional children in the past two years. In those areas we are very pleased, we are making big gains."

### What challenges does the program deal with?

"We are still reaching out, to families to help them connect with the right preschool program for their child. It's not an obstacle but it's something we see as a top priority. Early childhood has a lot of different programs. They have different eligibility levels and there's different ways to enroll in those programs.

"We try to make it easier for families to find the right preschool for their child. We have a website, PRE4CLE.Org that allows families to search all the high-quality programs. It has descriptions of the programs, the ages of children they serve and the quality level. We also connect families to financial resources for the programs. We really try to encourage them to choose a high-quality program that meets their family's needs, that's an ongoing priority for the community.

"There are still barriers for families, some of the programs are too costly even if there is financial support. Some families still don't have access to a high-quality program that is close to them and fits their transportation needs. We are looking to address all of things and make sure every neighborhood has enough seats to serve all the children in those neighborhoods. Also, make sure they are conveniently located for families and they're affordable."

### What feedback are you receiving from the families presently enrolled in the PRE4CLE program?

"Families are really excited to be in high quality programs. I think fam-

ilies really see the impact on their children. Not only their academic readiness for kindergarten but also social, emotional readiness. Their ability to interact positively in the classroom, pay attention and develop good relationships with their peers.

"So, when we talk to families, we hear their excitement to have their child in a high-quality program and their excitement that their child is ready for kindergarten the following year. We have kindergarten teachers who can really see a difference when kids attend a high-quality preschool. Kids are ready to succeed in their classrooms."

### What is the number of quality seats that are available?

"The number of high quality seats currently available as of May 2017 is 5,389."

### What community partners is PRE4CLE collaborating with?

"It's a community collaboration between the school district, the city and the county. Also, a wide variety of other partners from the religious community, the early learning programs, unions and libraries...We also have collaborations across the community especially, to reach out to families. So, just a sample of those are the Cleveland Public Library, Metro Health System, Metropolitan Housing Authority and Community Development Corporations. We have a really broad partnership that was created to be a collective impact organization to work together with families."

Data shows children who have received high-quality preschool perform better when entering preschool than their counterparts. The PRE4CLE helps Cleveland children and their families takes their first steps to success. For more information about Pre4CLE visit [pre4CLE.org](http://pre4CLE.org).



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, August 19, 2017; Tremont Voices Against Violence and Tremont Safety Committee Safety Fair, Lincoln Park, Tremont Neighborhood: The Mega Church Choir entertains the crowd, singing gospel music from inside the new Lincoln Park Gazebo.

## In Memory Norman Wolfe

The Near West Side and Cleveland lost a tenacious activist and advocate for the issues of low income Clevelanders when Norman Wolfe died on August 4.

Formerly homeless himself, Norman Wolfe became a long-time advocate for homeless individuals and homeless issues. Recognizing his many contributions, the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH) named him their advocate of the year in 2014.

Understanding the impact of the Ohio state budget on low income residents, Norman Wolfe became

actively involved and was eventually named the co-chair of the Northern Ohioan for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE), a local organization that works to have residents involved in the budget issues impacting their lives. Through that organization, Norman advocated strongly for Medicaid Expansion and protecting Medicaid health care.

Norman took a leadership role in other issues impacting low-income residents. He was the co-chair of United Clevelanders Against Poverty, an organization of low income residents addressing the issues af-

fecting their lives. In that position, he helped to initiate and lead the organizing of the End Poverty Now March at the Republican National Convention.

In all his endeavors, Norman took a low-key, but effective, approach that brought people together to work for social justice. He would do whatever was needed or necessary to move a campaign forward.

Norman Wolfe will be missed by all who knew him and those who have been impacted by the work that his has done.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, August 22, 2017, Ward 14 Primary Council Candidates Community Forum, 3150 W. 58<sup>th</sup>, Church of God: Ward 14 City Council Candidates ((L-R): Nelson Cintron, Jr., Brian Cummins, and Omar Medina answer questions submitted by members of the audience.

## WARD 14

continued from page 4

would work to make sure they have the resources they need.

Cintron said he would look at all the agencies receiving money in his ward and find out how much they are receiving and work to maximize the impact of the dollars awarded. He said he is supportive of local development corporations, but funding would depend on the decisions of their boards.

The next question had to do with how candidates would address quality of life issues, drugs, crime and crumbling infrastructure.

Medina said he would use relationships he has built to find organizations to come and invest in much needed Social Services.

Cintron said crime is a result of people not having a job. His solution is to work to bring jobs back. As for infrastructure, Cintron called for lobbying of the federal and state governments to provide funds to let us do our job on the city level.

Cummins said he has worked with police and the Safety Director to address problem houses which have been a chronic issue in the neighborhood. He said Metro West has a security camera program. He noted involvement with an Environmental Task Force and his involvement with the Public Works Committee of Cleveland City Council. He said lead in the water is not a problem in Cleveland due to chemicals the water department adds to the water supply.

The next question had to do with the large NuCLEus project proposal where the developer has asked Cleveland City Council for Tax Increment Financing that includes the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's portion of the property tax. Candidates were asked their position on the proposal.

Cintron said he attended public schools and has family members in the public schools. He promised to make sure there is funding in place for our schools. He said when he sees there are not enough teachers to have smaller class sizes for the children and sees that there are not enough funds for the schools, he knows this leads to residents moving out and the city losing population. Speaking of the proposal to use taxes due to the school system for a development project, Cintron said, "we need to stop this nonsense in City Hall."

Cummins said he is withholding judgement on the issue until after the School Board votes on the issue. He said the mayor has a proposal to the school board that will hold the schools harmless.

Medina stressed the importance of education and said he was involved in supporting Issue 107 to fund the schools. He said he would look into the issue before making a judgement.

Another submitted question asked about what ever happened to the plans for the W. 65<sup>th</sup> street corridor, and what it would take to revisit this issue.

Cummins said transportation

projects are difficult. He noted that a traffic study done in 2001 in Old Brooklyn neighborhood with the resulting project just underway now. Cummins said transportation projects just have to get in line. It takes time. It is a multiyear process, he said. Cummins added, it should help that he now has a great relationship with the Mayor. "It took several years to do that," he said.

Cintron said when he was in City Council, he and neighboring City Council Representative Tim Molina, discussed creating an industrial parkway along the W. 65<sup>th</sup> Street corridor to bring businesses to the neighborhood. He said talks involved creating a W. 65<sup>th</sup> entrance to I-90 to help attract businesses. Cintron said changes in ward boundaries hurt this effort. Cintron promised to keep the ward together and fight hard for projects.

Medina said projects like this require collaboration. He promised to meet with the mayor, others in City Council and interested people from the community to gain support for the proposal.

The next questioner asked candidates to explain how and why you would take Community Development Block Grant money allocated to Ward 14 and spend it in other wards.

Medina said he would not invest Community Development Block Grant funds in other communities saying, "We have so many issue to be addressed here. My commitment is money stays here to improve community."

Cintron said it is a hard question. He noted that organizations such as Merrick House and the Spanish American Committee provide services to people living in the ward, while having their office outside the ward.

Cummins said he wanted to address disinformation being circulated regarding a Community Development Block Grant fund swap he did with Councilman Brian Kazy in exchange for Social Service funds for the Women's Recovery Center on Storer Avenue.

The next questioner asked the council candidates if they would support point of sale inspections to reduce flipping of substandard housing.

Cintron said he wanted to use some of his time to say he was investigating a rumor that the local development corporation owns a block of properties to sell to developers. Cintron said when he worked for Cuyahoga County flipping was a problem they were trying to address.

Cummins said, yes, he would support point of sale inspections. He would also like to add rental properties to the roles of houses being inspected. He called for lead safe inspections for rental properties. Cummins called absentee landlords, "the worst problem."

Medina said he would support putting a system in place to hold people accountable.

The next questioner asked candidates to address why they thought voter turnout was so low in Ward 14.

Cummins cited a number contributing factors to low voter turnout. He said 50% of residents lacked a high school diploma, single parent families with hectic demands, and transient population that results in classrooms in the neighborhood where 50% of the students will have moved during the course of a single school year. He said literacy was a big problem in the neighborhood. He cited work by the interfaith community to help with this issue.

Medina said people tell him they are "not engaged, don't feel our voices are being heard." He hears people say, "What is the use of us voting? No one cares what we have to say." Medina says that is why he is committed to providing people with the opportunity to express their view on how development proceeds in the ward.

Cintron said when he first ran for City Council, he went door to door to help people register to vote. He said at the time, many people in Cleveland's Puerto Rican community were recent arrivals used to having elections only every 4 years in Puerto Rico. He said it is necessary to educate people. He noted he was the first person to lead the fight with the Board of Education to have classes in Spanish and English.

Following the questions, the candidates each offered some closing remarks.

Nelson Cintron, Jr. spoke of the importance of voting in the upcoming election and said he was offended that the Ward Club leader was challenging his family's right to vote. Cintron said in electing him, people would get a fighter for their interests. He said he would represent all people in the ward fairly and equally. He would be available any hour at night to answer concerns. He would have his cell phone 24 hours a day so residents would always be able to contact him. He said, "You are my boss." He said when you choose to be a councilperson, you accept nearly 25,000 bosses. He said he would spread funding equitably so everyone has a shot at those dollars. He said the community would be the boss as to how the money is spent.

Brian Cummins told the audience "I'm here for you." He said he has worked hard and is extremely proud of accomplishments in the ward. He mentioned millions in development projects. Another \$5 million slated for the Stockyard neighborhood and the Habitat for Humanity effort in the neighborhood. He also noted that the recent tax levy has made funds available for Parks and Recreation projects in the neighborhood. He hopes to get underway soon with a mini park on a parcel on W. 73<sup>rd</sup>. Cummins said he is now Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee which will give him added influence over policy. He also noted that his ward is the only ward on the West Side to receive neighborhood improvement funds targeted to specific neighborhoods by the administration with funds from the recent tax levy. This will amount to \$3-4 million, said Cummins. Cummins said a vote for him will allow him to continue these efforts.

Omar Medina said in electing him, you will be "electing someone who will be there for you." He noted that some candidates were not here tonight. "What is more important than being here?" He said he has consistently been fighting for residents. He said his words match his action. "I have been a public servant," said Medina.

After the closing remarks, Mary Rose Oakar thanked the candidates for their participation. Oakar said City Council representatives have a very difficult job. She said the ward territories are now 3 times as large as when she served in City Council. She said the ward she served in went from the Lake to Monroe and from the River to W. 48<sup>th</sup>. Oakar also noted that the council people now have staff to help them and their salaries are much higher. She urged residents preparing to vote to reflect on the question, "Who can do the best job for us?"

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# Building at W. 25th and Chatham once a grocery, then a furniture store, now awaiting a new tenant

by Haley Vidmar

For generations, on any given weekend, the strip on West 25<sup>th</sup> street is crawling with sightseers, shopping bags and grocery goods. Though the visitors and scenery of the city have been altered, the purpose of the place has not. In between all the hustle and bustle, there sits a decaying building at 2104 W. 25<sup>th</sup> just north of Chatham with an outdated sign reading "West 25<sup>th</sup> Street Furnis." This former furniture store that once flourished with fervor, now sits vacant coated in peeling signs and chipped paint. A Cleveland sign mural on the Chatham side of the building on occasion attracts sightseers taking pictures in front of the mural.

According to Architectural historian Craig Bobby, the building was constructed in 1890. The owner was John Sommer, and it was designed by the Cleveland architectural firm Cramer and Fugman. The building served as a grocery store that shared the building with Van Roy Coffee Co., local legendary coffee bean roaster that later relocated to Detroit Avenue. Much like now, people would scavenge the streets and come in for their daily cup of joe and chit chat in the early 1900s.

An article, "W. 25h Street Furnishings plans to close by the end of July" in the July 2015 *Plain Press*, offers some history of 2104 W. 25<sup>th</sup> prior to its becoming a furniture store. The building served as a dry goods store to compliment the West Side Market and the fruit and vegetable merchants that lined the sidewalks on W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street from Lorain Avenue to Chatham in the 1940s into the 1950s. This was prior to the opening of the fruit and vegetable stands at the West Side Market. The dry goods store had several different names during that period. For many years, it was called Sahley's Grocery until it changed ownership and became Shalala Grocery prior to closing in the late 1950s.

2104 W.25h Street's last tenant, W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street Furnishings, had its origins in a building just south of Chatham at 2138 W. 25<sup>th</sup>.

Herman Herskovic and Gilbert

Rosewater purchased that building to open Stern Furniture Co. in the late 1930s. In the late 1950s, after the closing of the Shalala Grocery, the store moved north of Chatham to 2104 W. 25th for more space to house furniture. They later expanded to take the space next door as well, once occupied by the Victor Tea Company.

Tom Feuerman, a previous salesman at Stern Furniture Company, bought the lease from the original owners in the 1970s. Feuerman planned on re-opening the building with his brother, Alex, as a furniture and repair store called West 25<sup>th</sup> Street Furnishings.

"In the 80s and 90s, the company was quite a success," Alex Feuerman said, "We did more repairs than selling furniture, but we made out. Then it got rough; customers were lacking."

Starting in the 2000s, the brothers decided to rent out half of the unused building to The Cleveland Hostel in order to help with the constant rise in rent. "Renting some of the building only helped out for a few years," Feuerman said, "The number of people and visitors in the city kept growing, but our store grew more and more empty. Then competition moved in down the street – making it all worse."

Unable to renew their lease at an affordable cost, the Feuerman brothers closed the doors to West 25<sup>th</sup> Street Furnishings on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 – being one of the last local and independently-owned family furniture shops.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, August 22, 2017: The building at 2104 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street remains empty two years after W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street Furnishings closed its doors.

## COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

to attend 1 of the 2 dates listed. CEU'S available. TO REGISTER, CONTACT: Carrie Miller at [cmiller@ohiocity.org](mailto:cmiller@ohiocity.org). Date: September 7th from 9 to 11:30 am, or on September 12th from 5:30 to 8pm. Location: LGBT Community Center at 6600 Detroit Ave.

### LIBRARIES

**A CARD FOR EVERY KID LIBRARY CHALLENGE** initiative, sponsored by Cleveland Public Library and 8 other Cuyahoga library systems, will take place during **National Library Card Sign-up Month** (September 1 – 30, 2017). It will help ensure every child under 18 years old in Cuyahoga Coun-

ty owns a library card. Children under 18 years old who already own library cards, but owe fines will also be invited to take advantage of **one-time fine forgiveness** anytime during **National Library Card Sign-up Month**. For more information about the **A Card for Every Kid Library Challenge**, please call **Kacie Armstrong** at **216.261.5300 ext 101** or visit [http://heightslibrary.org/signup\\_month/](http://heightslibrary.org/signup_month/).

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Monday, August 21, 2017, Eclipse Across America, Edgewater Park: Eugene Truhlar of Brunswick, Ohio enhances his solar eclipse experience with guitar music.

**True2U mentoring program seeks tutors**

The True2U mentoring program is seeking tutors to work with CMSD eighth-graders.

Mentors meet monthly with the students to help them envision their future and work on skills needed to make that future a reality. Emphasis is placed on career and college readiness.

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True2U is a partnership between CMSD, the Cleveland Foundation, MyCom, the Greater Cleveland Partnership, the Neighborhood Leadership Institute and Northeast Ohio Faith-Based Collaborative Inc.

To obtain more information or become a mentor, contact Molly Feghali at [molly@neighborhoodleadership.org](mailto:molly@neighborhoodleadership.org) or call 216-236-4112.

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**PRIMARY ELECTION**

continued from page one  
and two write in candidates.

Mayoral candidates appearing on the ballot are: Eric J. Brewer, Brandon Edwin Chrostowski, Frank G. Jackson, Jeff Johnson, Robert M. Kilo, Tony Madalone, Bill Patmon, Zack Reed, and Dyrone W. Smith. The two write-in candidates for mayor are: James Jerome Bell and Camry S. Kincaid.

In City Council wards where there are three or more candidates, primaries also will be held.

In the area served by the *Plain Press*, Ward 14 will have a primary featuring five candidates. City Council candidates in Ward 14 are: Kyle Cassidy, Nelson Cintron Jr., Brian

Cummins, Omar Medina and Jasmin Santana.

In Ward 14, Precinct F, voters will be able to weigh in on a Local Liquor Option. Dave's Supermarket, 3565 Ridge Road, is asking voters to approve a D-6 liquor permit allowing the Sunday sale of beer, wine and mixed beverages.

Ward 13, just to the south of the *Plain Press* service area in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood will have a primary featuring three candidates – Michele Burk, Rocco J. Crisafi and Kevin Kelley.

Ward 17, just to the west of the *Plain Press* service area will also have a primary featuring three candidates – Martin J. Keane, John F. Kelly and Clinton E. Preslan. East Side Wards 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10

will have primary City Council races.

Only Registered voters are eligible to vote. If you are not yet registered to vote, it is too late to register to vote in the primary election on September 12<sup>th</sup>. However, you have until October 10<sup>th</sup> to register to vote in the General Election scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms are available at local libraries, area high schools, and at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at 2925 Euclid Avenue. You can also download and print out a voter registration form at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections' website at: [boe.cuyahogacounty.us](http://boe.cuyahogacounty.us). If you have moved and need to change your address, you can use the same form to do that as well. Citizens age 18 and older by election day are eligible to register to vote.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Monday, August 21, 2017, Eclipse Across America, Edgewater Park: A Sonic Alchemy and Sound Healing session provides music for practicing yoga during the solar eclipse.



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ACRYLICS • GEL NAILS • POLISH CHANGES • NAIL ART • PARAFFIN

We cater to Women and Men and we Welcome Couples,  
Wedding Parties as well as "Friend's night out".

Quiet, upscale relaxing atmosphere...

Sorry adults only (14-16 yrs. must be w/ parent & have appt.)

All manicures include a very relaxing warm hand soak,  
cuticle treatment, nail shaping,  
hand massage and your choice of polish.

**VISIT [DRAGONFLYNAILSPA.COM](http://DRAGONFLYNAILSPA.COM) TO SEE SERVICES AND PRICES  
OR CALL US TODAY @ 216.350.6830**

**NOW HIRING LICENSED NAIL TECHNICIANS**

**DRAGONFLY NAIL SPA & BOUTIQUE**

**(9809 DENISON AVE.)**

**AN AMAZING NEW LOCAL BUSINESS**

Dragonfly Nail Spa & Boutique is looking for licensed talented and motivated individuals that want to be part of something New, Bold and Creative... Excellent working conditions. Experience with Hard Gel and free hand nail Art is a plus.

Our salon is a brand new, upscale, child free, tranquil environment where professionalism, customer service and sanitation is a top priority. Commission is commensurate and progressive with experience and skill level.

Positions available are for full time, part time, weekends. Applicants must have reliable transportation.

**Look us up on our website [www.dragonflynailspa.com](http://www.dragonflynailspa.com) or call us at 216.350.6838 YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID!**