



**PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN**  
 Tuesday, September 12, 2017; Announcement of the Expansion of Invest in Children's Universal Pre-School Program, Horizon Education Centers, Market Square, 2500 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street: A student in the Horizon Education Centers' Pre-Kindergarten program begins a project using sticky coconut flakes to create letters of the alphabet on pieces of construction paper.

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# Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

## Invest in Children expands Universal Pre-Kindergarten program

The number of newly available high quality pre-kindergarten education slots available in Invest in Children's Universal Pre-K (UPK) program more than doubled this year with the addition of 2,600 new slots. At a September 12 press conference at Horizon Education Centers- Market Square Pre-Kindergarten Site, Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish touted the expansion of the program, which will now serve 4,600 children. "It is my goal to give all our children a

great start in life, with a high-quality pre-kindergarten education," said Budish.

Budish noted that when children come to kindergarten not prepared, the cost to get them caught up is higher, and some never catch up.

Brad Sellers, Mayor of Warrensville Heights, said, "Can you make it if you don't go to preschool? The answer is 'yes', but it will be harder," said Sellers.

Invest in Children, a public/private partnership dedicated to the needs

of young children from prenatal to kindergarten, in all, secured \$22.8 million to fund the expansion of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program. Ten million of that amount, came from Cuyahoga County budget passed by Cuyahoga County Council, and \$12.8 million came from a fundraising effort led by Budish and Paul Clark of PNC Bank, co-chair of the Invest in Children Universal Pre-Kindergarten Partnership Committee.

Paul Clark, PNC Bank Regional President, stressed the importance of 3 and 4 year olds getting the best start in life. He said an investment in these children is an investment in the citizens and the workforce of the future.

David Smith, Executive Director of Horizon Education Centers, said participation in the Invest in Children UPK program allows Horizon Education Centers to offer scholarships to children with family income from 200%-400% of the federal poverty level. He said families with income over 200% of the federal poverty line lose all state assistance.

Smith also noted that the state funding for pre-kindergarten is not continued on page 4



**PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN**  
 Tuesday, September 12, 2017; Horizon Education Centers, Market Square, 2500 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street: Another student in the Horizon Education Centers' Pre-Kindergarten program begins a project using sticky coconut flakes to create letters of the alphabet on pieces of construction paper. Horizon Education Centers' Market Square Center hosted the announcement by Invest in Children of the addition of 2,600 high quality pre-school slots in Cuyahoga County.

## Plans revealed for the future of Clark Field

At public meeting, on September 21<sup>st</sup>, at Pilgrim Church on W. 14<sup>th</sup>, area residents had an opportunity to learn about plans for Clark Field. The meeting, hosted by Ward 3 Councilman Kerry McCormack, revealed plans for both the environmental clean-up of Clark Field and plans for the features the park will include when it is refurbished after the clean-up. On hand to answer questions from the audience were members of the Ohio EPA, representatives of the Mayor's Office of Capital Projects, and the City of Cleveland Department of Public Works. Also in attendance was Landscape Architect Jim McKnight, who is involved in the design of the future of the park.

McKnight says current plans call for the environmental clean-up and treatment of the park to be completed in 2018 and the redesign of the park to be completed by the end of 2019.

The 41.5 acre Clark Fields Park, located northeast of the intersection of W. 11<sup>th</sup> and Clark, has been closed for several years due to environmental contamination.

A statement issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency outlines some of the history of the discovery of contamination at Clark Field. The U.S. EPA's statement says, "In 2013-2014, the City of Cleveland conducted environmental assessments as part of the procedure to perform improvements to the park and found high concentrations of lead, arsenic and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAKs, present in the soil. Upon learning of the contamination, the city stopped issuing permits for organized recreational activities in the park. On Feb 23, 2016, based on the results of the environmental investigations, the city requested

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**PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN**  
 Sunday, September 3, 2017; St. John Cantius Polish Festival, 906 College Avenue: Tom Sheehan tackles a kielbasa and sauerkraut sandwich.

## General Election ballot will feature a variety of candidates and issues

The upcoming General Election will feature contests for the position of Mayor of Cleveland and all seventeen positions on Cleveland City Council. There are positions in our court system and local and state issues on the ballot as well. Early voting begins on October 11<sup>th</sup>. The General Election will be held on November 7, 2017.

Candidates Frank G. Jackson and Zack Reed are facing off with the winner becoming the next Mayor of Cleveland.

There will also be contests between council candidates in each ward. In the area served by the *Plain Press*, there are five City Council races. In Ward 3, the candidates are:

Logan E. Fahey and Kerry McCormack. In Ward 14, the candidates are: Brian Cummins and Jasmin Santana. In Ward 15, the candidates are: Alex Karrfalt and Matt Zone. In Ward 11, the candidates are: Dona Brady and Gilder E. Malone. In Ward 12, the candidates are: Anthony Brancatelli and Shalira Taylor.

There are candidates competing for judicial positions and the position of Clerk of Courts as well.

Municipal Court races with two or more candidates include the Housing Division where three candidates are running: Heather McCollough, Ronald J. H. O'Leary, and W. Moná Scott.

Four other competitive municipal

court cases will appear on the ballot. Judicial Candidates for an unexpired term ending 1-2-2022 are Ann Clare Oakar and Jimmy L. Jackson Jr. Judicial candidates for Municipal Court opening commencing 1-2-2018 are: Janel Rath Colaluca, Joseph Russo and Jazmin Torres-Lugo. Candidates for Judge for the term commencing 1-4-2018 are: Shiela Turner McCall, Lynn McLaughlin-Murray and Craig E. Willis. Judicial candidates for the term commencing 1-5-2018 are: Michael L. Nelson Sr., Marlene J. Ridenour and Michael R. Sliwinski.

Candidates Earle B. Turner and Jasmine M. Ross are running for the continued on page 6



**PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON**  
 Saturday, September 16, 2017; Tremont Arts and Cultural Festival, Lincoln Park: The annual festival drew people from throughout the Greater Cleveland area to its colorful booths such as those with displays in the Community Village.



**PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN**  
 Sunday, September 3, 2017; St. John Cantius Polish Festival, 906 College Avenue: Bernadette Zubel and Gerry Sutowski Seccone serve up pierogis, kielbasa and sauerkraut (kapusta) sandwiches, and cabbage and noodles. Volunteers from the parish and the Polish American Cultural Center were on hand to help with the festival.

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**CHILDREN**  
**CUYAHOGAKIDS.ORG** provides information for families with young children on high quality preschool and child care, fun activities, places to go, learning on the go, resources for your family. Visit the website [Cuyahogakids.org](http://Cuyahogakids.org) or text "KIDS" to 898-211 for the link.

**ELECTION**  
**NOVEMBER 7, 2017** is the date of the next General Election. Polls are open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. You must register or update your voter registration no later than 30 days prior to an election. Upcoming voter registration deadline is October 10, 2017. For more information, call or visit 216/443-VOTE or [www.443VOTE.COM](http://www.443VOTE.COM)

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**WHAT EVERY LANDLORD SHOULD KNOW.** All landlords and property managers should attend one of the Housing Court's annual seminars to be current on state and local ordinances regarding their rights and responsibilities as investment property owners. Judge Ronald J. H. O'Leary and his staff will conduct the next seminar on Wednesday, November 15th from 3 - 6 pm at Collinwood Recreation Center, 16300 Lakeshore Blvd. There is no charge for this event. Register by November 10, 2017 to attend. Use [clevelandhousingcourt.org/en-US/registration.aspx](http://clevelandhousingcourt.org/en-US/registration.aspx) or call Diana Twymon at 216/664-6927. Get the right information from the people who know what the law is.

**HEALTH CARE**  
**Medicare Open Enrollment** for 2018 runs from October 15 through December 7. During Medicare's annual open enrollment, Ohioans who are on Medicare can: Change or continue current prescription drug plan; Select a Medicare Advantage Plan, designed for comprehensive health and drug coverage; and Learn about recent updates to Medicare plan changes and financial assistance programs. Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIIP), a division of the Ohio Department of Insurance, will host Medicare Check-Up Day events to help consumers compare and select the best plan that meets their unique needs. To view a complete listing of Medicare Check-Up Day events, visit [www.insurance.ohio.gov/Consumer/OSHIIIP/SitePages/CheckUpDays.aspx](http://www.insurance.ohio.gov/Consumer/OSHIIIP/SitePages/CheckUpDays.aspx). Those unable to attend a Medicare Check-Up Day event can contact OSHIIIP at 1-800-686-1578, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), 24 hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week. Information, including specific plan details, is available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

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**THE PREVENTATIVE CARE CENTER** at the Metropolitan Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) has reopened for fall semester. The care center provides low-cost health care services to uninsured or underinsured adults while giving Tri-C health career students valuable learning and training opportunities in a clinical setting. Open 2-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays through Nov. 16 in room 105 of the Health Careers and Sciences building at Metro Campus, 2900 Community College Ave. in Cleveland. The center is staffed by students studying to be medical assistants, physical therapy assistants, occupational therapy assistants and dietetic technicians. Students work under the supervision of licensed or certified health care providers. Services offered include blood pressure readings; glucose and cholesterol screenings; physical therapy and occupational therapy; physical rehabilitation for daily living; pain management; bone density screenings; nutritional coaching; stress management; and exercise and education programs. No physician referrals are needed for an appointment. To schedule a visit or to find out about special health-related workshops, call 216/987-3555.

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## The Lofts at Lion Mills opens with 36 units of affordable housing

At the September 14<sup>th</sup> ribbon cutting ceremony for the Lofts at Lion Mills, Detroit Shoreway Executive Director Jeff Ramsey said the building at 3256 W. 25<sup>th</sup>, built originally as Lion Knitting Mills, will now serve the community with 36 units of affordable housing. Speaking of the \$10 million adaptive reuse of the building financed with various tax credits, Ramsey noted how the financing helped to make the one and two bedroom apartments in the building affordable. He said, the least expensive unit in the building will rent for only \$215 per month.

Mayor Frank Jackson spoke of the collaboration and partnership involved in the project and noted that development in Cleveland does not have to mean "gentrification."

Ward 14 Councilman Brian Cummins said he was excited that there would be more affordable housing in the neighborhood. He said the community hasn't seen the addition of affordable housing in many years.

Doctor Akram Boutros, President and Chief Executive Officer of the MetroHealth System, spoke of the tax credits and efforts by Councilman Cummins, Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization and others that have contributed to converting "an old worn out building into a cool west side apartment building." Boutros said, "as of this morning nine MetroHealth employees and their families are officially Lion Mills residents."

Boutros spoke of the future of the W. 25<sup>th</sup> Corridor, noting some projects in the works. He said La Villa Hispana will bring new businesses, homes and parklike green space. He noted the Regional Transit Authority is planning improved public transportation along W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street. Boutros said the efforts underway will make "MetroWest one of the most desirable neighborhoods in which to live, work and visit." Boutros said, in two-weeks, work will begin on a 1,500-car garage at MetroHealth Medical Center. He said, for the next five years, MetroHealth will be building along W. 25<sup>th</sup>-completing the \$1 billion transformation of MetroHealth Medical Center.

Michael Taylor, Senior Vice President of PNC Bank noted the bank's involvement in construction financing, and the process of helping to secure historic tax credits and low income tax credits for the Lofts and Lion Mills.

Guy Ford, Director of Legislative Affairs for the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, said he was glad the project replaced the water tower on top

of the building. He said, while his agency is involved in helping provide affordable housing for low and moderate income people throughout the state of Ohio, the projects "don't all have the rich history this project does."

Jenice Contreras, Executive Director of the Hispanic Business Center, spoke of the partnership of all collaborators in making the 36 units of affordable housing possible. Contreras said plans call for the opening next summer of El Mercado at La Villa Hispana, a year-round Latino market. Contreras says housing, retail and place making plans are also in the works. "Development and new construction does not have to mean gentrification and displacement. The whole community backs me on that," said Contreras.

Anya Kulcsar, Director of Real Estate Development for the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, noted the Lofts at Lion Mills were the organization's first development project in the MetroWest service area. She thanked members of the design, construction, and real estate teams as well as the project historian for their efforts.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, September 14, 2017; Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, The Lofts at Lion Mills, 3256 W. 56<sup>th</sup> Street: The Lofts at Lion Mills will offer 36 units of affordable housing. Cutting the ribbon are: (L-R) Michael Taylor, Senior Vice President of PNC Bank; Caryn Candisky, District Director of the Office of U.S. Senator Rob Portman; President of Marous Brothers Construction Albert Marous; Detroit Shoreway CDO Director of Real Estate Development Anya Kulcsar; Ward 14 Councilman Brian Cummins; Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson; Detroit Shoreway Executive Director Jeff Ramsey; Hispanic Business Center Executive Director Jenice Contreras; Director of Legislative Affairs of The Ohio Housing Finance Agency Guy Ford; and MetroHealth System President and Chief Executive Officer Doctor Akram Boutros.

## Cleveland LaborFest to pay tribute to the Industrial Workers of the World

The Labor Education and Arts Project's Cleveland LaborFest, on October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, will feature a tribute to The Wobblies, The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

Session one will feature a Wobbly Musical Road show on Friday October 13 at 7:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Church of Cleveland at 21600 Shaker Blvd in Shaker Heights. Former union organizer and activist George Mann will sing songs from epic times of labor and social activism; Charlie King will offer musical storytelling and political satire; and Terry Leo-

nino and Greg Artzer, performing together as Magpie, will feature traditional and vintage Americana to contemporary and stirring original compositions. The Musical Road show has a suggested free will donation of \$20, or donate as you can, otherwise admission is free.

Session two, a LaborFest Forum and Film, will be held on Saturday, October 14 at 11 a.m. at the Louis Stokes Wing Auditorium of the Cleveland Public Library at 325 Superior Avenue NE. Admission is free and open to the public and lunch will be served.

The film *The Wobblies*, a documentary by Deborah Shaffer and Stewart Bird features interviews with old-timer Wobblies. *The Wobblies* is one of the few films to document the efforts of the radical labor movement to organize the unorganized and preserve memories of its many battles with capital and the corporate state.

Following the film, there will be a forum. Peter Cole, a professor of history at Western Illinois University, will speak about Local 8- Philadelphia's Interracial Longshore Union. Mary Triece, a professor in the School of Communications and Director of Women's Studies at the University of Akron will speak about

Women and the IWW. Ahmed White, professor of Law at the University of Colorado, Boulder will speak about Anti-Radical Law, the IWW and the American Left.

## International Village Festival features storytelling, food and entertainment

The International Village Festival held at the Michael Zone Recreation Center on September 17<sup>th</sup> featured storytelling, sharing of cultural foods and entertainment.

Esther Ngemba, now a high school student at St. Joseph Academy, was one of the storytellers sharing her story with those in attendance. Ngemba recalled the violence in the Congo that prompted

her family to leave. She said fearing the atrocities committed by the Congolese soldiers, her parents hid her sister in a blanket and her mother held her tightly in her arms. One of the soldiers tried to pull her from her mother's arms, and, in the process, broke her right elbow. Ngemba says the elbow has never healed right.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, September 12, 2017; Announcement of the Expansion of Invest in Children's Universal Pre-School Program, Horizon Education Centers, Market Square, 2500 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street: A student practices housekeeping skills while sweeping the rug in the classroom.

## UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN

continued from page one

enough to provide a high-quality program. He said funding from UPK allows pre-kindergarten programs to have an extra person in the classroom, offer high quality curriculum, and provide professional development opportunities for staff.

Costs for pre-kindergarten programs range from \$7,000 to \$9,000 per year. Tuition assistance generally covers up to 1/3 of the cost of tuition. Invest in Children says it has added some enhancements to the program this year and now can offer families with income under 200% of the federal poverty level tuition assistance equaling half the annual fee to attend preschool.

As part of the expansion, the Invest in Children UPK program added 37 new preschool sites. "The expansion of UPK is a critical step towards increasing kindergarten

readiness in Cuyahoga County, and is especially important in Cleveland where we have set a goal of every 3- and 4-year old child having access to high-quality preschool," said Eric Gordon, CEO of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. "We know UPK produces great results for children and we are thrilled that eighteen new preschool sites were selected in Cleveland as part of the expansion."

The City of Cleveland has its own program for preschool programs called Pre4CLE. An article, in the September *Plain Press* by M. Yesenia Summers titled "Executive Director Katie Kelly offers update on Pre4CLE program," indicates Pre4CLE lists 5,389 high quality preschool seats.

Michelle Connavino, Operations & Outreach Specialist for Pre4CLE, says there is an overlap between the two programs (UPK and Pre4CLE)

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

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> 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. An article, "W. 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Ave-

nue 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.25<sup>th</sup> Street's last tenant, W. 25<sup>th</sup> Furnishings, had its origins in a building just south of Chatham at 2138 W. 25<sup>th</sup>. Herman Herskovic and Gilbert Rosewater opened the original furniture store there sometime in the 1940s. In the late 1950s, after the closing of the Shalala Grocery, the W. 25<sup>th</sup> Furnishings moved north of Chatham to 2104 W. 25<sup>th</sup> 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 was an employee of the furniture store at 2104 W. 25<sup>th</sup> from 1969-1979. Alex Feuerman says he arrived in Cleveland ten years after his brother in 1978. The brothers bought the furniture business and took over the lease for the building in 1979 and worked together as owners of the business, selling new furniture at West 25<sup>th</sup>

Furnishings. "For 36 years, it was a great business," Alex Feuerman said. He said West 25<sup>th</sup> Furnishings sold new furniture and "business was tremendous." Alex Feuerman said that if he and his brother had owned the building, they would still be there. They wanted a 3-to 5-year extension of the lease but Ari Maron of MRN Management, which owned the building, "told us to leave."

Alex Feuerman said Maron planned to lease the upper floors of the building to the Cleveland Hostel next door and had another tenant in mind for the ground floor. Both the expansion of the hostel and the new tenant for the ground floor failed to materialize and the building remains empty now two years after West 25<sup>th</sup> Furnishings closed its doors.

Alex Feuerman says he is still in the business of selling furniture. He now works for A to Z Furniture at 1860 E. 55<sup>th</sup> Street in Cleveland.

**Editor's Note:** This article is a correction of the original article that appeared in the September Issue of the *Plain Press*.

## Plain Press offers deep apologies

An article in the September issue of the *Plain Press* titled, "Building at W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Chatham once a grocery, then a furniture store, now awaiting a new tenant" has been corrected and reprinted above. The *Plain Press* felt an obligation to rewrite and publish the article because the writer of the original article, a student doing the article as part of a class assignment, quoted from a person she never interviewed.

Alex Feuerman, one of the brothers who owned W. 25<sup>th</sup> Furnishings, called the *Plain Press* to say he never talked to the writer of the article.

The writer quoted him as saying the furniture store did "more repairs than selling furniture." Feuerman says the store never did repairs, they sold new furniture. The writer also said that W. 25<sup>th</sup> Furnishings' business was poor and they leased out the top floor to Cleveland Hostel to help with the rising rent. Feuerman said that business was good. He said they couldn't have rented out the top floor because they didn't own the building.

Feuerman, who now works at A to Z Furniture at 1860 E. 55<sup>th</sup> Street, said if he and his brother had owned the building they would still be there. They wanted a 3- to 5-year lease, but the landlord MRN Group wanted them to leave.

The *Plain Press* offers its deepest apologies to Alex Feuerman for this incident. While the *Plain Press* proof-reads articles prior to publication, the errors in this article eluded us.

We apologize to our readers as well. A new corrected article appears above and will replace the article printed online as well.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, August 29, 2017; For Get Me Not art installation reception, Eastman Branch Library, 11602 Lorain Avenue: Members of Dancing Wheels entertain the crowd attending the reception for the art installation.

## INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE FESTIVAL

continued from page 3

When her family fled the Congo to Uganda, Ngemba says they had nothing. She remembers being with her siblings and being “so hungry” while her parents went to search for a place for them to live.

Ngemba says her father tried hard to find them a place to go to school in Uganda. In school, Ester Ngemba says she learned to speak English and Uganda’s language as well. She said the toughest part was walking the three miles from their home to the school.

Ester Ngemba says she and her

family were resettled in Cleveland in 2011 by Catholic Charities Refugee Services. Esther said she attended Thomas Jefferson Newcomers Academy for only a few months, and then moved on from there to Metro Catholic School because she already knew English. When she graduated from Metro Catholic she was accepted at St. Joseph Academy.

Esther Ngemba says both St. Joseph Academy and her church, the United Church of Christ, have encouraged her to be a speaker addressing the Refugee Crisis. She

## Medicaid Expansion: Your action is urgently needed

Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE) issued a warning “the Fight for Medicaid Expansion is not over.” Reaching out to *Plain Press* readers the group said, “we need your help to ensure that individuals will continue to have access to affordable health care.”

NOBLE said, Speaker of the Ohio House Cliff Rosenberger recently reached out to members of the legislature to gauge whether he had enough votes to override the Governor John Kasich’s veto of the Medicaid Expansion Freeze. “So far, the word is he doesn’t have the votes YET,” NOBLE noted in its press release on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Freeze would eliminate any new participants from applying for Medicaid Expansion coverage effective July 1, 2018. Those currently on the program and losing 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.

The Ohio House is considering a vote on this issue in October if they can get enough votes to override Governor Kasich’s veto. “We must

not let them Freeze access to affordable healthcare for single adults,” says NOBLE.

NOBLE says it needs you to contact the following Representatives with this message: “Do not override the Governor’s veto of the Medicaid Freeze.”

NOBLE asks that you contact the offices of the following members of the Ohio House of Representatives: Representative Mike Duffey, 614-

644-6030, [ben.james@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:ben.james@ohiohouse.gov); Representative Marlene Aniel-ski, 614-644-6041, [william.london@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:william.london@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); and Representative David Greenspan, 614-466-0961, [William.white@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:William.white@ohiohouse.gov).

## Truth Commission on Poverty to be held at Franklin Circle Church on October 14

by Alyssa Apollo

The End Poverty Now! Coalition, a large coalition of Cleveland organizations, will be holding a truth commission on Saturday, October 14 from 10-4 pm. The group has modeled the upcoming Cleveland Truth Commission on Poverty after worldwide and historical Truth and Reconciliation Commissions. The event is free and open to the public. Meals and childcare will be provided at the event.

The Truth Commission is part of a year-long effort, through many activities and actions across the country, to revive the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and bring together the struggles of the poor and dispossessed today.

The event will put poverty on trial. The event will feature personal testimonies from local low-income individuals telling their stories involving environmental degradation, housing, quality education, healthcare, living wage jobs, and criminalization of the poor.

The testimonies will be presented to a panel of commissioners who will come out with findings. The panel of commissioners for the event includes Rev. Sala Nola-Gonzales, Maria Smith, Attorney with Legal Aid; and Marvetta Rutherford, Public Transit Advocate and two national commissioners.

For further information or to register children go to [www.facebook.com/endpovertynowcleveland](http://www.facebook.com/endpovertynowcleveland) or call (216) 651-2606.

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## CLARK FIELD

continued from page one

U.S. EPA to assist cleaning up the site.”

U.S. EPA’s plans for the clean-up and containment of the environmental contamination in the park include placing a two-foot thick soil layer on top of contaminated portions of the park. The clean-up will also include installation of drainage along the perimeter of the park and removal of some soil and debris.

Following the Environmental clean-up, Clark Field’s Park will be redesigned to offer a wide variety of activities. Plans call for basketball courts, tennis courts, baseball fields, flag football fields, football and soccer fields. There will be two dog parks, one for large dogs and one for small dogs. The park will have two play zones, one for children ages 2 to 5 years, and one for children ages 5 -12 years. The park will have a splash pad as well as swings. There will also be several plazas and shelters. Part of the towpath trail (stage 3), which will go from Steelyard Commons to Literary Road, will run through Clark Fields Park. This section of the towpath trail is, currently, under construction and is scheduled for completion in October of 2018.

Beverly Wurm of Friends of Clark Field says she is thus far pleased

with the work Landscape Architect Jim McKnight has presented for the redesign of the park. Friends of Clark Field hope to, once again, plan activities in the park when the redesign of the park is complete.

**Editor’s Note:** Residents wishing to find documents related to the clean-up can visit the U.S. EPA’s website at: [www.epa.gov/il/tremont-field-site](http://www.epa.gov/il/tremont-field-site), or visit the local repository at the Cleveland Public Library’s Jefferson Branch at 850 Jefferson Avenue. The US EPA refers to Clark Fields Park as the Tremont Fields Site.

noted the booth she set up at the International Village that contained many pictures of refugees. She said when people see the pictures, they can view refugees as people. “Human beings hoping to be welcomed – children and women hoping for a safe place to call home,” she said.

Following the storytelling, two young Congolese men, who grew up as refugees in Uganda, entertained the crowd with their dancing. The brothers, Jonas and Esai PiliPili, who call their group Holy Dance, displayed their acrobatic skills and dancing skills that they learned as refugees in Uganda.



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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, September 7, 2017; Candlelight Vigil in support of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), DREAMERS and all immigrants, Market Square Park, W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue: Over 300 people gathered to show their support for DREAMERS in the wake of President Donald Trump's decision to rescind the DACA program. Protesters hold up an image of the Blessed Mother Mary which notes she is the Patron and Protector of Immigrants.

## Cleveland Primary Election features low voter turnout

Despite the large number of candidates in the Cleveland Mayoral race and some hotly contested City Council races, the majority of Cleveland's registered voters, did not vote in the September 12 Primary Election. City-wide, 31,276 voters cast ballots in the Mayoral election representing only 12.35%

of the 261,285 registered voters in Cleveland.

In Ward 14, where five candidates campaigned for Cleveland City Council, only 1,098 votes were cast in the City Council race or 7.69% of the 14,269 registered voters in the Ward. Candidate Jasmin Santana came in first with 383 votes, followed

by incumbent Brian Cummins with 362 votes.

In contrast, Ward 13 and Ward 17, which also had City Council primary races, had voter turnout above the city average with 14.02% of registered voters casting ballots in Ward 13, and 19.88% of registered voters casting ballots in Ward 17.

Ward 13 Primary # of Votes	%
Kevin Kelley	1,480 70.92
Michele Burk	307 14.71
Rocco J. Crisafi	300 14.37
Total Votes	2,087
(14,869 Registered Voters)	
Turnout	14.02%

Ward 17 Primary # of Votes	%
Martin J. Keane	2,480 74.90
John F. Kelly	593 17.91
Clinton E. Preslan	238 7.19
Total Votes	3,211
(16,150 Registered Voters)	
Turnout	19.88%

### Local Liquor Option – Dave's (Ridge & Denison) Ward 14 Precinct F

Sunday Sales	# of Votes	Percentage
Yes	53	67.95
No	25	32.05

Local Liquor Option – Dave's (Ridge & Denison) Ward 14 Precinct F Sunday Sales

The swarm of lobbyists makes it very hard for our elected politicians to take meaningful steps to lower

prices. Last year the D.C. drug lobbyists even prevented a simple experiment to see which of two ways of paying physicians to administer cancer drugs was better. Needless to say, the drug makers' widely distributed campaign contributions to help to deter strong measures against them.

So, it is up to the people in a ballot initiative. Voting for Issue 2 won't put a lot of money in your pocket right away. It will send a message to the drug industry and to politicians that the American people, like Ohioans of all political persuasions, are sick and tired of putting up with high prices for drugs. Our call for action in passing Issue 2 will resonate far and wide. And, that is what PhRMA is afraid of.

Let's look at some facts:

- The U.S. spends twice as much per capita on prescription drugs than the average spent by 19 other industrialized countries. Prices for many drugs are 2 to 5 times more expensive than in those countries.

- Between 2006 and 2013, while overall inflation rose less than 20%, the prices for 113 drugs to treat chronic conditions rose 190%.

- The twenty largest drug companies made \$125 billion in profits in 2015 (up from \$101 billion a year earlier).

- The average profit margins of the industry are 25-30%, more than twice as high as the other large companies in the S&P 500.

- Drug companies spend only between 10% and 20% of their revenues on R&D. In recent years, major drug companies have spent more on share buybacks and dividends than on R&D.

The drug lobby tries to claim that competition keeps its prices down. Experts in the field disagree. An article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* last year asserted that "prescription drugs are priced in the United States primarily on what the market will bear." The National Academy of State Health Policy observed that "instead of competition holding down prices, competitors match each other's price increases."

So, the real issue is not a small technical policy issue about which reasonable people can disagree. It is a political issue about who has the power to tame an industry that puts its financial welfare above the health and welfare of the American people. Hidden prices and secret rebates may make sense in some industries. They don't make sense for an industry whose products seek to treat illnesses and save lives. As a retired family physician, I struggled way too often to figure out what a specific drug would cost my cash-strapped patients. We need fair prices, not "market" prices. We need visible prices, not hidden prices.

The swarm of lobbyists makes it very hard for our elected politicians to take meaningful steps to lower

prices. Last year the D.C. drug lobbyists even prevented a simple experiment to see which of two ways of paying physicians to administer cancer drugs was better. Needless to say, the drug makers' widely distributed campaign contributions to help to deter strong measures against them.

So, it is up to the people in a ballot initiative. Voting for Issue 2 won't put a lot of money in your pocket right away. It will send a message to the drug industry and to politicians that the American people, like Ohioans of all political persuasions, are sick and tired of putting up with high prices for drugs. Our call for action in passing Issue 2 will resonate far and wide. And, that is what PhRMA is afraid of.

## GENERAL ELECTION

continued from page one

position of Clerk of Municipal Court.

There are two state wide issues on the ballot. Issue One is a proposed Constitutional Amendment providing rights for Crime Victims. Issue Two calls for the State of Ohio not to pay any more for prescription drugs than the federal department of Veterans Affairs.

The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority is requesting a renewal 0.13 mill levy.

The Cleveland Public Library is asking for a renewal of a 5.8 mills and an increase of 2 mills.

Cuyahoga Community College is asking for passage of a bond issue of .5 mills for capital projects

Voters in Ward 3, Precinct N will be asked to vote on a Local Liquor Option for Sunday beer sales for the Rite Shop Food Mart at 3153 W. 73<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Voters in Ward 14, Precinct F will be asked to weigh in on Sunday Liquor Sales for beer, wine and mixed beverages for Hanini 7 Oil at 6501 Denison Avenue.

To view your ballot, prior to voting, you can go to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website at [boe.cuyahogacounty.us](http://boe.cuyahogacounty.us).

**Editor's Note:** If you have any questions for City Council or Mayoral candidates you would like to see answered in the *Plain Press*, please email them to the *Plain Press* at [plainpress@gmail.com](mailto:plainpress@gmail.com) or mail them to: Plain Press, 2012 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500, Cleveland, OH 44113. The *Plain Press* plans to send out surveys to candidates, prior to the publication of our November issue. We hope that input from readers will help us to formulate questions for candidates. If asking questions focused on your City Council Ward, please indicate the Council Ward you live in.

September 12, 2017 Primary Election Results		
Mayor of Cleveland	Number of Votes	Percentage
Frank G. Jackson	12,699	38.69
Zack Reed	7,195	21.92
Jeff Johnson	5,042	15.36
Brandon Edwin Chrostowski	3,112	9.48
Robert M. Kilo	1,725	5.25
Tony Madalone	1,515	4.62
Bill Patmon	883	2.69
Eric J. Brewer	479	1.46
Byrone W. Smith	130	.40
Write In Votes	46	.14
Total Votes	32,276	(261,285 Registered voters)
Turnout		12.35%

Ward 14 City Council Primary	# of Votes	Percentage
Jasmin Santana	383	34.88
Brian Cummins	362	32.97
Nelson Cintron Jr.	279	25.41
Omar Medina	43	3.92
Kyle Cassidy	31	2.82
Total Votes	1098	(14,269 Registered Voters)
Turnout		7.69%

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, August 29, 2017: For Get Me Not art installation reception, Eastman Branch Library, 11602 Lorain Avenue: For Get Me Not, a bleacher and canopy structure, designed by Jonathan Hanna, was installed in the front entrance plaza of the library. Hanna, designed the bleacher as a tribute to the Variety Theatre. The bleacher serves as a public seating area where individuals can sit and view artwork on display in the second-floor mezzanine level window of the library. Hanna, a post graduate fellow with Kent State University's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, worked with Westown Community Development Corporation and residents to get feedback on how the Eastman Branch Library could improve collaboration with the community.

**COMMUNITY BOARD**

continued from page 2

**LEGAL AID**  
**JUVENILE REENTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (JRAP)** provides legal, housing, and criminal record help for young adults and their families. To apply to Legal Aid, call 216/687-1900 or 888/817-3777, or walk-in to 1223 West Sixth St. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 1 pm. Or for information on Neighborhood Brief Advice Clinics, visit [www.lasclev.org](http://www.lasclev.org) for a complete schedule, or Text 'las clinic' to 216/242-1544 for the date and location of the next walk-in clinic  
**LEGAL AID AT THE LIBRARY** on October 21 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am at the Cleveland Public Library – Fulton Branch at 3545 Fulton Rd. A first come, first served free advice clinic for low-income individuals with civil legal issues (not criminal ones). Please bring all relevant paperwork with you. New clients can call: **888-817-3777** (toll-free) or **216-687-1900** (Cleveland local)

**MOTHERING**  
**MOM'S FIRST** helps with the stress of pregnancy and parenting. Community Health Workers provides support for moms. If you or someone you know is pregnant, call 216/664-4194 or visit [www.momsfirst.org](http://www.momsfirst.org). If you are interested in sharing your voice with the community effort to reduce infant mortality, contact the Moms First Community Action Network. Mom's First participants and local providers meet regularly to tackle the causes of infant mortality and assist with providing resources where they are needed most.

**NEIGHBORHOODS**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD UP** is a group of Clevelanders who came together to make meaningful change in local communities. For information, visit [www.neighborhoodgrants.org](http://www.neighborhoodgrants.org)  
**WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK NIGHT** is held at Metro West Community Development Office 3167 Fulton Rd at 6:00pm every Thursday except December and January. For more information, call Hilda at 216/961-9073 ext. 202

or email [habreu@dscdo.org](mailto:habreu@dscdo.org).  
**POLICE**  
**"HAND ACROSS THE BRIDGE"** is scheduled for Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon on the Hope Memorial (Lorain-Carnegie) Bridge. They are looking for at least 150 people from each of the five Police Districts. If you are interested, please contact Michael McDonald at Community Relations Representative, 2nd District at (216) 664-3293. Also contact him if you can bring others, such as faith-based and education groups.  
**OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS:** The Office of Professional Standards, under the direction of administrator Damon Scott, is a city of Cleveland entity created for the purpose of investigating complaints against employees of the City's Division of Police that have been lodged with the appropriate division yet still appear to be unresolved to the complainant's satisfaction. Damon Scott can be reached at

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**POTLUCK**  
**HARVEST MOON POTLUCK:** Join friends & neighbors for the 46th annual Harvest Moon Potluck. Bring your favorite (alcohol-free) beverage and a dish to share! Saturday, October 7 at 5:30pm. At Church Ave. between W.29th & W.32<sup>nd</sup>.

**POVERTY**  
**THE CLEVELAND TRUTH COMMISSION ON POVERTY** will meet on Saturday, October 14 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Franklin Circle Christian Church, 1688 Fulton Rd. Hear personal testimony about what the Poor face in housing, education, health care, employment, the justice system, and a polluted and toxic environment. Join us to help us break the silence of decades of denial and lies about poverty. Sponsored by Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus and other organizations. Free childcare will be provided but you must call 216-651-2606 to register your children. For more information contact: [endpovertynow@organizeohio.org](mailto:endpovertynow@organizeohio.org) or call 216-651-2606.

**RECYCLING**  
[CuyahogaRecycles.org](http://CuyahogaRecycles.org) is the go-to resource for residents to learn about recycling rules, composting, donating and everything to do with reducing, reusing and recycling in Cuyahoga County. For information on recycling in Cleveland, visit the Division of Waste Collection and Disposal at <http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/>

**FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING:** City of Cleveland residents can drive up and drop off documents or stay and watch the 4,500 pounds per hour shredder in action on Monday through Friday from 9 am to 3 pm at the Division of Waste Collection at 5600 Carnegie Avenue. Limited to 3 boxes/bags per person. For more information, call 216/664-3717. Call ahead if you want to watch your documents being shred.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**STOP THE HATE. @ Youth Speak Out** celebrates students committed to creating a more accepting, inclusive society. By reflecting on real-life situations and detailing ways to make a positive difference in the world, this next generation of leaders can win big. *Stop the Hate@* is designed to create an appreciation and understanding among people of differing religions, races, cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds. The program challenges young people to consider the benefits of a more inclusive society, and the consequences of intolerance and the role of personal responsibility in effecting change. Each year, the Maltz Mu-

seum of Jewish Heritage gives out \$100,000 in scholarships & awards. In 500 words or less, students are encouraged to share their experiences and submit their essay by the deadline based on grade category. Students in Grades 6-10 ESSAYS are DUE Friday, January 5, 2018, 11:59pm and for those in Grades 11 & 12 ESSAYS are DUE Friday, January 19, 2018, 11:59 pm. For more information on participation, please contact Director of Education & Public Programs, Jeffery Allen at [216-593-0577](tel:216-593-0577), [jallen@mmjh.org](mailto:jallen@mmjh.org), or visit the Maltz Museum online at [www.maltzmuseum.org](http://www.maltzmuseum.org)

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The new **John Adams College and Career Academy** prepares students for careers in marketing, business management and physical therapy through a sports-focused lens. Students work with caring professionals to design their own paths to success.

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