



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
 Sunday, January 14, 2018; World Day of immigrants, Migrants and Refugees Celebration, St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3114 Scranton Road: A drummer accompanies African dancers during the opening procession of the Mass.

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Vol. 45, No. 2 February 2018

Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Hundreds fill St. Michael's Church to celebrate the World Day of Immigrants, Migrants and Refugees

by Chuck Hoven

Hundreds of people filled St. Michael's Church on Scranton Road on Sunday, January 14th, as the Cleveland Catholic Diocese joined with Catholic dioceses throughout the world in the celebration of the 2018 World Day of Immigrants,

Migrants and Refugees. Bishop Nelson Perez celebrated the mass, where those in attendance were invited by St. Michael's Parish, to pray with "Pope Francis and the Universal Church for all those people who have been forced from their homelands by violence and are seeking a

home and safety." The invitation to the mass also said prayers would also be "for those countries and groups that are providing welcome for these immigrant, migrant and refugee communities."

People attending the mass were encouraged to wear traditional clothing, and come together as members of the church to celebrate, as one family, with a mass followed by a reception with food, music and dance in the church hall. The mass included Prayers of the Faithful read in the Language of the Ukraine; Quechua from Peru; French from the Congo; Krabn from Liberia; Spanish; and English. The entrance procession featured people dressed in colorful traditional dress of their culture and the offertory reception featured gifts of food and other items representing various cultures. The mass also featured music and dance from a variety of cultures.

Bishop Perez said, "When it comes to the church, the church has no borders." He then asked those attending the mass to stand to represent the continent from whence their family came. All the continents of the world were represented at the mass. Bishop Perez said, "Unless you are an American Indian, you came from someplace else."

Emphasizing the nature of the Catholic Church as a community without borders, Bishop Perez said, "We each bring our own gifts, continued on page 4



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
 Sunday, January 14, 2018; World Day of immigrants, Migrants and Refugees Celebration, St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3114 Scranton Road: Aztec Dancers offer a gift of dance during the Offertory presentation.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, January 14, 2018; World Day of immigrants, Migrants and Refugees Celebration, St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3114 Scranton Road: Bishop Nelson Perez walks down the aisle during the procession at the beginning of the Mass.

School to Apprenticeship Program offers Max Hayes students a path to become Union Journeymen Sheet Metal Workers

by Chuck Hoven

On Tuesday, January 23, 2018, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) signed an agreement with the Sheet Metal Workers' Local 33 Joint Apprenticeship Training Center (JATC) that will allow students in the Construction Program at Max Hayes High School a direct path into the Sheet Metal Workers' Apprenticeship Program when they graduate from high school.

CMSD CEO Eric Gordon and Max Hayes Construction Curriculum Specialist John Nesta joined with Co-Chairs of the JATC Apprenticeship Committee John E. Sickler Jr. and Kevin Tolley in signing the agreement. The agreement represents the first agreement between the CMSD and a trade union in Cleveland for a school to apprenticeship program.

Max Hayes Construction Curriculum Specialist John Nesta, who was instrumental in securing the agreement, is a retired sheet metal worker. Nesta once taught classes at the Sheet Metal Workers' JATC.

The agreement will allow qualified graduating students to enter directly into the five year apprenticeship training program at the Joint Apprenticeship Training Center at 12525 Corporate Drive in Parma, Ohio. According to details of the agreement released by CMSD Media Department, "To qualify, students must be at least 17 years old and graduate from Max Hayes with a minimum 3.0 average in their building construction or welding courses and have an overall average of at least 2.5. They also must maintain

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Saint Patrick's Parish remembers Beloved Pastor Father Mark A. DiNardo at Funeral Mass & reception

Over 700 people gathered at St. Patrick's Church on W. 38th and Bridge Avenue on January 26th to celebrate the life of Father Mark

DiNardo, who died on Sunday January 21st at Regina Health Center in Richfield, Ohio. The crowd of parishioners, former parishioners,

priests from throughout the diocese, ministers, religious, social service workers, and neighborhood continued on page 4



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
 Sunday, January 14, 2018; World Day of immigrants, Migrants and Refugees Celebration, St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3114 Scranton Road: These young women wear traditional clothing from their culture as they join in the opening Procession of the Mass.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, January 20th, 2018; Women's March, Cleveland Public Square: (L-R) Juliette Ausperk, age 8, and Detroit Shoreway resident Rachel Sisson, age 5, stand in front of a sculpture to display their signs. An estimated 7,000 people came to Public Square to participate in the Women's March.

ARTS AND CULTURE
TRANSFORMER STATION. *Eating Atom Bombs* by Dana Schutz speaks to the precariousness of our current political and social moment. It seeks to illustrate not what tears us apart and divides us, but rather the universal emotions and experiences that bind us together. This exhibition will be on view through April 15. **Close-Looking Sessions:** Sunday, February 25, 2 pm and Thursday, March 22, 6:30 pm. Explore select works in *Eating Atom Bombs* through a series of questions that look closely at the connection between the state of America today and Schutz's paintings. These are free events, however, registration required. Sign-up at <http://www.clevelandart.org/events/lectures/close-looking-session-dana-schutz>. **Curator Talks** on Friday, February 16, 12 pm and Thursday, March 8, 6 pm at the Transformer Station. The Cleveland Museum of Art Curator of Contemporary Art, Reto Thuring, will lead a tour of the exhibition. The Curator Talks are free events, no registration required. Visiting Hours: Wednesday: 11am to 5pm. Thursday: 11am to 8pm. Friday: 11am to 5pm. Saturday: 11am to 5pm. Sunday: 11am to 5pm. **Transformer Station** 1460 West 29th Street Cleveland, OH 44113 216-938-5429. Admission: free.

SPACES will celebrate its 40th anniversary with a series of exhibitions, events, and publications through its 3 artist-driven programs and community engagement initiatives. The R&D program in the 2018 season will be themed around the topic of "connectivity." SWAP is an 8-week intensive residency that culminates in an exhibition of new work produced while the artist is in Cleveland. On view January 26, 2018 – March 23, 2018: **R&D: Julia Christensen** (Oberlin, OH), *Waiting for a Break* tracks Lake Erie's winter ice as it forms, shifts, and breaks in real time over the winter. It extends beyond SPACES, with a concurrent presentation organized by LAND studio in Public Square. **Mahwish Chishty** (Kent, OH), *Naming the Dead* comes to

the SPACES World Artist Program (SWAP), as their 66th Artist-in-Residence, to continue her work on a project that draws attention to innocent civilians living within a state of war. In *Drone Series*, silhouettes of unmanned aerial vehicles are decorated with traditional Pakistani folk "truck art" to give these war machines a second skin that juxtaposes the terror and beauty of modern warfare. **The Vault: Zak Long** (San Francisco, CA), *Interpretations/Clarification* The videos included in *Interpretation/Clarification* explore how we interpret information through storytelling, performance and visual cues. SPACES is located at 2900 Detroit Ave. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Sunday: 12 - 5 p.m., and the gallery is open until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Admission during regular gallery hours is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.SPACESgallery.org, call 216/621-2314, or email contact@SPACESgallery.org.

CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
CLEVELAND METRO SCHOOL DISTRICT schools' information is available at <http://www.cleveland-metroschools.org/chooseCMSD>. Pre-K information is available at <http://www.clevelandmetro-schools.org/Page/10335>
THE MERRICK HOUSE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM, at Merrick House at 1050 Starkweather Ave. in Tremont, is a provider of Universal Pre-Kindergarten, providing USDA approved meals, degreed teachers, field trips, and parent and teacher action teams. Scholarships for income eligible families (Up to 33% of weekly tuition OR tuition free). Call 216/771-5077.

METRO CATHOLIC SCHOOL is still accepting applicants for the 2017-2018 school year! Metro Catholic School is a Preschool through Gr. 8 program located at 3555 W 54th off of Denison in the Stockyard neighborhood. They serve the educational needs of a diverse and changing population. They offer a traditional curriculum along with many special learning programs and services in a safe and nurturing environment. Call 216-281-4044 x128.



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.

URBAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE. Meet teachers and staff, take a tour of the school, and learn about school programs. All families are welcome, but we particularly encourage those with children entering Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten in Fall 2018.

Conozca a los educadores y empleados de la escuela. Conozca sobre nuestros programas, venga a participar de una excursion de la escuela. Todas las familias son bienvenidas. Especialmente o animamos a las familias que tienen niños que entraran en el nivel pre-kinder (4 años de edad) o kindergarten (5 años) este otoño del 2018. On Sunday, January 21, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM // domingo, 21 de enero, a las 1:00 hasta 3:00 pm at Urban Community School, 4909 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland. Questions? Contact Mrs. Pattie Rossman Skrha, Enrollment Director 216-939-8330, ext 145, or pskrha@urbancommunityschool.org at 4909 Lorain Avenue, 44102 Urban Community School provides primarily low-income children from Cleveland's near west side with an individualized, innovative, and challenging education. Founded and sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, UCS is a faith-based school in the Catholic tradition. Preguntas? Llame a la Sra. Pattie Rossman Skrha, directora de inscripciones al 216-939-8330 extension 145. La escuela Urban Community provee a niños de bajos recursos y viven en el vecindario oeste de Cleveland con una educación individualizada, una educación creativa y una educación desafiante. La escuela fue fundada y es patrocinada por las hermanas Ursulines de Cleveland. Es una escuela basada en la fe y tradición Católica.

DEMENTIA
"LIVING AT HOME WITH DEMENTIA," the beginning of an educational series for 2018 with a presentation by Dr. Charles Farrell. It will be on Saturday, February 10 at 11:00 a.m. - doors open at 10:30 a.m. The talk is being co-sponsored by and held at Cogswell Hall, 7200 Franklin Blvd. RSVP to Diana Cyganovich at dcyganovich@ameritech.net. This is free and open to the public.

ENVIRONMENT
SUSTAINABLE CLEVELAND Join the City of Cleveland, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress and ioby (in our back yards) for a series of workshops in 10 CLE Neighborhoods through April 2018. Learn more about how climate action can improve your health, quality of life and community: Increase access to healthy, local food; Reduce air pollution, which can lead to asthma; Improve access to transportation options and jobs; Decrease monthly utility costs and

risk for flooding and storm damage. More information at www.sustainablecleveland.org

HEALTH
MEDICAID SURVEY: Legal Aid Society of Columbus needs to hear your thoughts and perspective. They are advocating for improvements in transportation for those on Medicaid. If you or someone you know uses Medicaid transportation benefits, please complete this very short survey. <https://uhcanohio.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=70f6455abf8276cb1c4462782&id=38eed3dd6&e=0e384e9620> .The survey is anonymous.

THE PREVENTATIVE CARE CENTER at the Metropolitan Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) is open through April 26. 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. It is open 2-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is located in Room 105 of the Health Careers and Sciences building at Metro Campus, 2900 Community College Ave. The center is staffed by students studying to be medical assistants, physical therapy assistants, occupational therapy assistants and dietetic technicians. The students work under the supervision of licensed or certified health care providers. Services offered at the center 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. To schedule a visit or find out about special health-related workshops, call 216-987-3555. For more information, go to www.tri-c.edu/carecenter.

FREE CPR CLASSES: GORDON SQUARE CPR is excited to announce that due to support from the Cleveland Clinic, multiple Free Heartsaver CPR classes will be offered throughout 2018. The first classes are Feb 4 or Feb 18th from 2-6pm. For more information, or to sign up, email gordonsquarecpr@gmail.com or visit: <https://www.gordonsquarecpr.org/>

EMPLOYMENT
CUYAHOGA COUNTY provides assistance with job hunting. Visit <https://employmentconnection.us/>
DETROIT SHOREWAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION is accepting applications for a Financial Controller, Assistant Property Manager, and a Maintenance Technician. Full position descriptions can be found at <http://www.dscdo.org/employment.aspx>.

www.dscdo.org/employment.aspx. To apply, send cover letter and resume to: jobs@dscdo.org.
HISPANIC BUSINESS CENTER: Fund Development Manager. HBC is seeking a skilled professional to manage, implement, and expand the organization's fund development activities. Details can be found at <http://files.constantcontact.com/4a59d850101/adc2e504-a029-4ff3-8a7d-10ea4518b66a.pdf>. Submit cover letter with salary requirements and resume to: Hispanic Business Center, c/o Jenice Contreras 2511 Clark Avenue Cleveland 44109 jcontreras@hbcenter.org.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY CIVIL LEGAL ISSUES. A first come, first served free advice clinic for low-income individuals with civil legal issues. Please bring all relevant paperwork with you. West Side Catholic Center at 3135 Lorain Ave. on February 3 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am. For more information, call 216/631-4741.

DEBT COLLECTION CLINIC. Debts hold people back and make it harder to create a stable life. Are you facing issues with debt collection? Are you being sued to collect on a debt? As long as the court has not entered a judgment against you in the collection lawsuit, Legal Aid may be able to help! Free legal advice and counsel at monthly Debt Collection Clinics (starting February 6). To learn more and get an appointment, call 888/317-3777. Ask about the location.

U.S VETERANS LEGAL CLINIC. A first come, first served free advice clinic for low-income U.S. Veterans with civil legal issues related to shelter, safety, consumer rights, health, education, work or income issues. To attend, call 216-391-0264 for an appointment. Please bring all relevant paperwork with you. On February 7 @ 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm at the VA Community Referral and Resource Center (CRRC) at 7000 Euclid Ave.

PRO SE DIVORCE CLINIC. This clinic focuses on divorce matters. Those attending will be counseled by volunteer attorneys and provided with the tools to handle divorce matters on their own. Appointments are required, and space is limited — please call 888-817-3777. Ask about the location. Bring all relevant paperwork with you. For this clinic, Legal Aid is proud to partner with the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. February 9.

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Plain Press
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plainpressads@yahoo.com
 Website: www.plainpress.org
 Plain Press

© Established in 1971
 Circulation: 21,000 copies.
 Published monthly.
 Distribution area: Cuyahoga River west to W. 140, Lake Erie south to the Lower Big Creek Valley. Available free at over 500 locations.

Managing Editor: Charles E. Hoven;
Editor: Deborah Rose Sadlon;
Photo Editor: Coriana Close;
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Attention Nonprofit Organizations!

The Plain Press Community Guide will be published in the March Issue of the *Plain Press*. If your organization is new, or has changed its name or phone number since last year, please send an email to the *Plain Press* at plainpress@gmail.com with information for your free listing in the guide. To place more than your organization's name and phone number in the guide, please purchase an ad in the Community Guide. If you are interested in finding out about how to advertise in the Community Guide, email Tom Sheehan at plainpressads@yahoo.com for details.

Homeless Stand Down provides a wealth of resources including haircuts for the homeless

Homeless people from throughout Greater Cleveland gathered at Public Auditorium at East 6th and Lakeside on January 21st for the Homeless Stand Down led by Hands On Northeast Ohio. Many individuals and families came away with duffel bags, nap sacks or garbage bags filled with supplies to help sustain them.

Among the groups helping to organize and sponsor the Stand Down were the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, Care Alliance, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, Cleveland Department of Public Health, Cleveland Photographic Society, the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, Medworks, Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission, RTA, and the Cleve-

land Food Bank.

The Homeless Stand Down featured not only respite from the cold, breakfast and lunch but also a wealth of social services, legal services, bus passes, health screenings, podiatry, dental information, children's dental screenings, hygiene items, outreach services and housing information. There were also games for youth and services for veterans as the Stand Down provided help for both individuals and families.

Among the services provided were haircuts by members of The Urban Barber Association (TUBA). Waverly Willis, the founder of TUBA, says he himself benefited from the Homeless Stand Down when he was homeless. Willis credits resources

from the Homeless Stand Down and two years of treatment at Y-Haven for helping him turn his life around. Willis, once on the streets of Cleveland, homeless, drug and alcohol addicted and begging for money, says he is now 13 years clean and sober. He owns two west side Urban Kutz barber shops and plans to open a salon in April.

Willis says he made a commitment to God, that if God released him from his demons of addiction, he would spend his days helping people. While still in recovery in 2006, Willis founded the nonprofit organization TUBA which among other charitable services participates in the Homeless Stand Down each year providing haircuts to the homeless.

State funding supports housing programs for homeless Ohioans

Government and nonprofit organizations in Cuyahoga County were recipients of funding from the Ohio Development Services Agency to support shelters for the homeless and help homeless Ohioans find permanent housing.

Grants from the Homeless Crisis Response Program are designed to help nonprofit and government agencies operate emergency shelters and quickly move individuals from emergency shelters to permanent housing. Funding for the pro-

gram is from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund and the Federal Emergency Solutions Grant program.

Local Homeless Crisis Response Program grant recipients are: Cuyahoga County, \$1,608,000; Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, \$100,000; Volunteers of America, \$394,000; and West Side Catholic Center, \$100,000.

Grants from the Supportive Housing Program help nonprofit agencies transition homeless Ohioans to permanent housing or provide

permanent supportive housing to homeless people with disabilities. Funding for this program is from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund.

Supportive Housing Program grant recipients are: Cleveland Housing Network Housing Partners, \$58,900; Emerald Development and Economic Network, \$1,965,400; Front Steps Housing and Services, \$299,100; Joseph's Home, \$50,300; Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, \$471,600; and Volunteers of America, \$274,400.

Reader urges understanding, compassion and support for refugee families

To the editor:

Your October 2017 edition printed an article, titled *International Village Festival features storytelling, food and entertainment*, about Esther Ngembe speaking at the International Village Festival. I had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Ngembe, last year, and hearing her families' story. It is the part of a refugees' life that many of us don't understand.

LETTER

Ms. Ngembe's firsthand knowledge of her family leaving everything

they have and running for their lives, is the compelling truth of what it is like for people who are suffering in war torn countries and want a better life. We Americans need to educate ourselves about what is happening all over the world, and we must show compassion for refugee families instead of the disdain I have heard from some.

I urge everyone to make an effort to attend an International event when they are presented in your community, and support local refugee services in the Greater Cleveland area.

Susan L. Gundich
Old Brooklyn neighborhood



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN Saturday, January 20, 2018; Homeless Stand Down, Public Auditorium, E. 6th & Lakeside Avenue: Waverly Willis, Executive Director of The Urban Barber Association (TUBA) and owner of the Urban Kutz Barber Shops gives Marvin Woolfork a haircut.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, January 14, 2018; World Day of immigrants, Migrants and Refugees Celebration, St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3114 Scranton Road: Aztec Dancers offer a gift of dance during the Offertory.

CELEBRATING WORLD DAY

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customs, food, language, etc. as we gather about the table of the Lord where all are welcome. You cannot build a wall around that table, because Christ has no borders."

Bishop Perez noted throughout history, human beings have always been on the move. He recalled the Christmas Story of Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem and then fleeing to the country of Egypt with the child, Jesus. He then cited some statistics concerning the millions of people who have had to leave their homes or their countries in recent years.

Bishop Perez reminded those in the church that "every stranger is an opportunity to an encounter with Jesus Christ." He shared a message from Pope Francis asking Catholics to welcome, protect, promote and

integrate immigrants, migrants and refugees into their communities. "The truth is the Catholic Church is a community of communities, but we are one family," said Bishop Perez.

At the end of the Mass, Sister Rita Mary Harwood of the Parish Life Office thanked St. Michael's Pastor, Father Mark Riley, and the St. Michael Parish Community for hosting and helping with the planning of the event. All those in attendance were invited to a reception following the mass.

The reception at St. Michael's Gruss Hall featured foods from a variety of cultures as well as music and dance coordinated by Master of Ceremonies Carlos Diaz. Dancers and musicians performing represented cultures such as Puerto Rican, Spanish, Hungarian, and Peruvian.

FATHER MARK DINARDO

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residents all came to pay tribute to the beloved Pastor of St. Patrick's Church who had served the parish and the community from 1980 until about six months ago when he left for Regina Health Center.

The Homilist, Father Tommy O'Donnell, retired pastor of Holy Name Church on Broadway, reflected on the readings including the story in the Gospel of John where Christ washes the feet of his disciples. Fr. O'Donnell said, "Mark saw Christ through those scriptures. He was a servant for others ... listening to them in times of sorrow..."

Homilist O'Donnell described Father Mark as an "attentive listener" who would invite members of his congregation to reflect with him on the scriptures and discuss with him what he should say to the congregation.

O'Donnell called Father Mark an "oil change master" who would carry around holy oil and anoint those with ailments on the spot.

Calling Father DiNardo a "religious education genius", Father O'Donnell noted how he created "home schooling for the faithful" with weekly religious instruction in the bulletin that families could take home.

"A gifted annulment minister", Father O'Donnell said Father Mark DiNardo helped with over 50 annulments. Sharing a letter from a parishioner, Father O'Donnell described how Fr. DiNardo had typed fast while listening to the woman's reasons for seeking the annulment and then went over the details with her before sending the form downtown for approval.

Father O'Donnell spoke of the "side door ministry" at St. Patrick's Church to the poor and homeless. He said, "Mark always had a buck in his pocket for the homeless and poor."

Retired Cleveland Bishop Anthony Pilla, who was a celebrant in the Mass, said to the St. Patrick's Community and the surrounding neighborhood "Father Mark loved being here, because you loved him."

Bishop Pilla said, "St. Patrick's was a Church in the City, long before we had that." Bishop Pilla recalled talking to someone downtown. The man told him he had been down and

out and went to a number of places and couldn't find help. Finally, he said he went to someone on the street and asked them, "Where do you get help?" The person replied, "You go to St. Patrick's. They will help you."

Following the Mass, a reception was held in the basement of St. Patrick's Club House. Many people gathered for a meal and fellowship.

Sister Judith Ann Karam, CSA, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, the order of sisters that work at Regina Health Center where Fr. Mark Dinardo spent his last six months, looked around the hall in the St. Patrick's Club building where so many people were sharing their memories of Father Mark and said, "This is representative of who he is - a priest of the people. We are all blessed by his presence in our lives."

Molly Carreon, spoke of a photo she had seen that showed a bicycle parked outside a confessional at St. Patrick's. She said, "To me that symbolized - everyone is welcome here." Carreon said one reason people loved Fr. Mark, was he never judged anyone. She said when her sons and their friends were younger they would go to the rectory every night. "Mark accepted them and kept them there. Without fail, I could call the rectory and find them there. That was their home."

Judy Corrigan shared some memories of going with Father Mark to take kids from the parish on field trips. She recalled taking the kids through a tunnel in a maze with Father Mark, and grabbing onto his feet to help guide her as they crawled through the maze with the kids. Corrigan thought of the prospect of Father DiNardo now being reunited with her late husband Bill and Fr. Paul Hritz of St. Malachi. She said, "Could you imagine what is going on up there?"

Lea Katynski-Jesse, who grew up down the street from the church, recalled a story her mother relayed to her. "My mom says that, when I was born, during her hippy period, she didn't plan on having me baptized until I was old enough to make my own decisions. When I was about 10 months old, my grandmother was concerned that I had not been bap-

tized and went to Father Mark who later came to the house, knocked on our door, and said to my mother, "So, when are you going to baptize that baby?" Father Mark, eventually, baptized Lea at St. Patrick's Church at a later date.

Brendon Nugent described Father Mark as an "inexhaustible driver of good. Father Mark insisted that everyone have a sense of dignity and gave them what they needed to get them there."

Rachel Napolitano said her family lived by St. Patrick's Church when she was a child, then moved away to the suburbs, but always came back to St. Patrick's for special occasions. Napolitano said when she was trying to raise money for her first trip to El Salvador when she was in college, she went to her suburban parish and asked if she could put a coffee can in the back for donations to support her trip. She was refused. When she went to Father DiNardo and asked if she could put the can at St. Pat's, she said he pulled out his checkbook, said "don't worry" and wrote her a check. Napolitano says she was impressed by the giving spirit from a parish that had such meager resources.

Rachelle Coyne remembers that Father Mark always had "seeds of love" to offer at just the right time. During some challenging times, she recalls him saying to her, "You are perfect, just the way you are." According to Rachelle, "he always gave you something you had to think about. It might not have made sense to you at the time, but eventually, if you thought about it, a light would go off and you would get it."

Plain Press Editor, Debbie Sadlon told of living in the neighborhood by St. Patrick's Church as a struggling college student. She said St. Patrick's Church was instrumental in helping her make ends meet. She said she met with Father Mark once a week for counselling and that after each meeting, Father Mark was always concerned that she had enough to eat and would give her cans of soup to take home. "Father Mark was a brilliant man," she said, "I loved talking with him. Even though I wasn't Catholic at the time, he would meet with me and never try to convert me. I felt welcome and a part of the community, just the way I was. I never felt judged."

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RTA cuts? Who cares, it serves working people

by Roldo Bartimole

The fact that there has been little public hysteria—as there usually is when something the corporate establishment values feels hurt—tells you all you need to know about our priorities here.

The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) faces a fiscal strangulation. It's due to a change in the levy of the sales tax on Medicaid. RTA says it will cost some \$20 million in revenue annually. The tax will disappear due to a Medicaid ruling.

COMMENTARY

That translates into the need to cut 1.8 million fewer trips for workers; 700,000 fewer trips to local schools and 300,000 fewer trips to health appointments. The figures are from a letter by George Dixon, RTA board president; Dennis Clough, board vice president, and Joe Calabrese, RTA general manager.

That's the result too of an original sin—use of the regressive sales tax to fund this mass transit.

Do we pay for roads and streets with a sales tax? No, of course we don't.

Mass transit sorely needs adequate state, county and even local financial help.

It is a crucial urban need, not a luxury or part-time service.

But Cleveland's top legal and corporate leaders—so typically—in the early 1970s decided the regressive sales tax would be best. Of course, for them.

It certainly lets the state off the hook, the county off the hook and the city off the hook.

And, of course, it lets the people

with the real money home free.

Penny sales taxes don't hurt the wealthy.

I think most people don't remember that the Regional Transit System was once Cleveland Transit System and the downtown establishment had a lot to do with how that transfer took place.

AND WHO PAID THE BILLS. Sales tax means not them.

It's just the same old story.

I wrote in 1975: The original legislation that made it necessary for everyone to back a regressive sales tax rather than an equitable tax was written by Richard Desmond of Squire, Sander and Dempsey and shoved through the Legislature.

Who engineered this? James C. Davis, Desmond's boss and managing partner then of Squire-Sanders. Also, he was head of Greater Cleveland Forward, another of those created entities that funneled money to lobby RTA and its funding method.

He was a heavy-weight. He was chairman also of two other corporate creations of the time: Cleveland Development Foundation and the Greater Cleveland Growth Association. Names no longer in use but replaced by Greater Cleveland Partnership and the Downtown Cleveland Alliance.

Davis wrote the famous, widely-distributed pamphlet "Cleveland's White Problem." It absolved corporate interests of racism and piled it on white ethnics alone.

Davis was derisive in his description of elderly people at one of the meetings, arguing for lower fares for the elderly. "They don't even know what they're cheering about," he was overheard saying at one



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, January 14, 2018; World Day of immigrants, Migrants and Refugees Celebration, Reception, St. Michael's Gross Hall: Dancers and musicians entertained the crowd at a reception following the Mass. These dancers perform a traditional Peruvian dance.

meeting.

The names change; the tasks don't.

The city of Cleveland really got NOTHING for its transit system. Its inventory was at the time valued at \$72 million. The always cooperative press at the time said the city got \$10 million but that was to pay the city for a loan of \$.8.8 million and \$1.1 million for city-owned parking lots. It got nothing else.

Dennis Kucinich saved riders

some \$350,000 a year by nixing a deal that would have charged riders a dime extra during work travel time.

The Plain Dealer played its usual role. Its editorial said, "What little opposition has cropped up to the regional transit plan has been based on false and insufficient information."

Of course, if the county lately hadn't spent gobs of money on

stadiums and arenas and phony medical marts and a fancy hotel, there might be some funds to give working people a ride to work.

And without an increased cost. **Editor's Note:** This article was first published in the blog: *Have Coffee Will Write* on January 11, 2018. For more articles by Roldo Bartimole, visit the blog at: havecoffeewillwrite.com and click the link Roldo.

In Memory – Gertrude H. Senyak

Longtime Tremont resident Gertrude H. Senyak, age 88, passed away on January 4th. On January 13th friends and family of Gertrude H. Senyak gathered at St. Augustine Church for her funeral service and a reception catered by St. Augustine that followed the service.

Tremont West Development Corporation staff person Scott Rosenstein speaking at the funeral said Mrs. Senyak was the person that made him feel welcome in the neighborhood when he first started working in Tremont. He said at

neighborhood meetings, her smile, kindness and warm greetings of people using their first names made all feel genuinely welcome.

Fr. Joe McNulty recalled how when he first came to the neighborhood over 40 years ago, he took his clothes for dry cleaning at the Senyak Cleaners and was told, "You're a priest. We cannot charge you." He said he continued to use their dry cleaning service where Gertrude worked with her late husband Henry on the corner of Scranton and Stark-weather.

McNulty noted the involvement of the Senyak Family at the now closed Our Lady of Mercy Parish and St. Augustine Parish in Tremont. He said how proud Gertrude Senyak was of her son Henry's activism in the Lincoln Heights Block Club, and the Tremont and Near West Side neighborhoods. Speaking of Henry Senyak's efforts to make sure the street lights are in working order, Fr. McNulty said if you ride around at night near St. Augustine you will notice the streets have more lights working than in other parts of the city.

Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery

by Tabitha Woodruff

Human trafficking is the illegal ownership and sale of human beings; in modern times it takes many different forms.

The federal Trafficking Victim Protection Act of 2000 divided human trafficking into two categories: forced sex work, which is termed "sex trafficking," and forced labor, which is termed "labor trafficking." The federal definition of labor trafficking encompasses debt bondage, involuntary servitude, and other exploitative practices. Sex work takes many different forms, and may include dancing, pornography, or prostitution. In sex trafficking sex work is induced by force, fraud or coercion. The law in Ohio uses the word "compulsion" as a broader term to cover those concepts.

Compulsion is an amorphous concept but is not always required in the Ohio definition of human trafficking. If someone is developmentally disabled or under age 16, Ohio law presumes that anyone facilitating and profiting from their sex work is using compulsion and is guilty of sex trafficking. But what if the victim is 17; has a long history of childhood trauma but has not been diagnosed as developmentally disabled; and knows that if she does not perform sex work for her pimp's profit, then he will kick her out and she will be homeless? There are many human trafficking cases like this where it is unclear if the Ohio legal definition for "human trafficking" is met, even though it would be categorized as human trafficking under federal law.

Catching the Trafficker Doesn't Always Protect the Survivor

Often, a sex trafficking victim is still charged with prostitution even when their trafficker has been charged or convicted for trafficking them. Even in child sex trafficking cases, the victims might be charged.

In Ohio, there is no minimum age to be charged under R.C. 2907.24 (solicitation) or R.C. 2907.25 (prostitution). Children as young as 11 have been charged with solicitation and prostitution in Ohio. Currently, there are specialty courts in a few Ohio counties (such as Empowerment Court in Franklin County and Restore Court in Summit County) that work to protect and stabilize child trafficking survivors with pending delinquency charges.

How Attorneys Are Helping

Human trafficking survivors face many challenges and if the survivor is undocumented or has a long criminal record, these challenges may be compounded. Lawyers play an important role by helping trafficking survivors take advantage of the legal options available to them.

For example, Ohio law allows for a criminal court to order a convicted defendant to pay money directly to the survivor they harmed.

In 2012, Ohio legislators passed a bill that allowed human trafficking survivors to bring a civil action against their traffickers. Under Ohio Revised Code 2307.51, survivors can sue their traffickers for lost wages, medical bills and more, regardless of whether or not the trafficker has ever been charged or

convicted for trafficking them.

Under Ohio law, sex trafficking survivors can have some criminal records expunged from the time period when they were trafficked, making it easier to do things like apply for a job or rent an apartment. The current language of the statute is somewhat unclear regarding what types of criminal records may be expunged, and pending legislation (HB 56, SB 4) seeks to sort out the confusion.

In addition, undocumented victims of human trafficking and major crimes may be able to stay in the U.S. via a T-Visa or a U-Visa. Both options offer a path toward citizenship.

There are several low- and no-cost legal service providers in Ohio that are available to assist survivors: Advocating Opportunity; Human Trafficking Legal Clinic; The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law Greif Fellow in Juvenile Human Trafficking: Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.; and the Ohio Justice & Policy Center.

About Tabitha Woodruff: Woodruff is an attorney with the domestic legal team at the Legal Aid Society of Columbus. She serves as the legal advocacy chair of the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition.

This "Law You Can Use" column was provided by the Ohio State Bar Association. Articles appearing in this column are intended to provide broad, general information about the law. This article is not intended to be legal advice. Before applying this information to a specific legal problem, readers are urged to seek advice from a licensed attorney.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, January 23, 2018; Sheet Metal Workers' Local 33 Joint Apprenticeship Training Center, 12525 Corporate Drive: Cleveland Metropolitan School District Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon, Co-Chair of the Joint Apprenticeship Training Center's Apprenticeship Committee John E. Sickle Jr., Max Hayes High School Construction Curriculum Specialist John Nesta, and Co-Chair of the Joint Apprenticeship Training Center's Apprenticeship Committee Kevin Tolley sign a School to Apprenticeship Agreement. Max Hayes High School Construction Program 11th Grade Students Matthew Gonzalez, Austin Williams and Kristina Martinez witness the historic signing.

SCHOOL TO APPRENTICESHIP

continued from page one

95 percent attendance in high school, two points above the state standard." Students must also pass a physical.

Students in the apprenticeship program will go through the training program tuition free. Each student receives their own laptop computer. Their only costs will be union dues. The agreement will allow them to begin earning \$12.50 per hour plus benefits in the summer between their junior and senior years in high school, according to the CMSD me-

dia department press release. The press release also indicates that once the apprentices complete the five year program, they will become union journeymen. The current wage for journeymen sheet metal workers is \$36.91 per hour.

Co-Chair of the JATC Apprenticeship Committee John Sickle Jr. said the Joint Apprenticeship Training Center is a partnership between industry and the union – the word "joint" in the title means labor and management combined. Sickle, President of Duct Fabricators, says

he is a representative of industry on the Apprenticeship Committee.

JATC Apprenticeship Committee Co-Chair Kevin Tolley, says he represents Local 33 of the International Association of Sheet Metal Workers Local 33.

The two co-chairs explained that industry and the union get together to sign a contract determining wages for journeymen. The apprenticeship wages are based on a percentage of the journeyman wage and apprenticeship wages currently start at over \$14 per hour.

In addition to earning wages while going through the apprenticeship program, apprentices will have their tuition covered for over 140 hours of classroom work each year. Sickle and Tolley explained that after 90 days, the apprentices will also qualify for health care benefits and a pension.

Tolley says, an agreement between JATC and Cuyahoga Community College allows apprentices to earn credits toward an applied science major in Sheet Metal. When apprentices complete the five year

Passing of ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County CEO Valeria A. Harper and designation of Acting CEO

On January 10, 2018 the Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADAMHS) issued the following statement announcing with "great sadness and broken hearts" the untimely passing of its Chief Executive Officer, Valeria A. Harper. Ms. Harper was a staunch advocate for those living with mental illness and substance use disorders in Cuyahoga County for more than 35 years and had been serving as the Board's Chief Executive Officer since August 1, 2017.

Harper was passionate about her work, but more precious to her than anything else in this world was her family. She was a devoted and loving mother, grandmother, family member, friend and sorority sister to so many. The loss of Ms. Harper is

indecipherable.

The ADAMHS Board is grateful to the community for its outpouring of support during this trying time. As Valeria recently said, "The community is our greatest asset in addressing the disparities in treatment for those living with mental illness and addiction and in lifting up all those in recovery. When we come together, we can make greatness happen." She was a wise and wonderful woman and the Board will carry her message forward in all of its work.

Per the ADAMHS Board By-Laws, there was an Executive Committee meeting held this morning to designate an Acting Chief Executive Officer. The Board has chosen Scott Osiecki, who has been with the Board for more than 20 years, and is also the Chief of External Affairs.

program, they will have accumulated between 30 and 36 credit hours – all tuition free -- that can be used toward a four year degree if they decide to go to college, said Tolley.

Sickle and Tolley says the JATC has about 10 to 25 apprentices a year enter its program. If they get two or three apprentices a year from the Max Hayes Construction Program they said, "that will be a huge win for us."

Prior to the signing of the agreement, those present for the signing ceremony received a tour of the state of the art training facility. The tour included viewing the individual welding booths for students; drafting tables; a computer room; a Fire Light Safety Board training area; Computer Numerical Control (CNC) table; a Plasma Cutting Table; examples of duct work and architectural sheet metal; a Testing and Balancing Lab for HVAC systems; and a Variable Refrigerant Flow Lab with a top of the line training area.

Max Hayes Juniors, Austin Williams, Khristina Martinez and Matthew Gonzalez, participated in the tour along with Max Hayes Principal Chris Scarcella. Among those on the tour and witnessing the signing were Cleveland City Council President Kevin Kelley, Cleveland Councilman Anthony Brancatelli, and John Sindy Chief Executive Officer of the Sheet Metal Air Conditioning Contractors National Association (SMACNA).

A description of the multi-faceted

work performed by Sheet Metal Workers, provided by the Sheet Metal Workers JATC, says:

Sheet Metal Workers work with ferrous (steel), non-ferrous (aluminum, copper) and alternative materials (plastics, fiberglass, phenolic board). They fabricate, install, maintain and service components in Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems. This includes air handling equipment, ductwork, duct system components and the drawings for shop fabrication and field installation. They also perform the Testing Adjusting and Balancing (TAB) of the complete HVAC system. Sheet Metal Workers fabricate, install, maintain and service components used in industrial applications. This includes dust and fume collection systems, machine guards and spray booths and ovens. Sheet Metal Workers also fabricate, install and maintain components used in Architectural applications. This includes metal roofing, siding, decking, coping, flashing and decorative materials.

Max Hayes Construction Program, from which the apprentices will be drawn, is taught by instructors Jim MacDowell and Jim Mulgrew. The program has about 25 students in each grade, and provides instruction to juniors and seniors.

At the Cleveland Board of Education Meeting following the signing of the contract, CMSD CEO Eric Gordon announced the agreement to the Board of Education. Gordon noted that Don and Norma Freeman, who began advocacy for such a school to apprenticeship program over 16 years ago, had been notified of the agreement. Don and Norma Freeman now serve on the Advisory Committee for the Max Hayes Construction Program.

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Greater Cleveland Food Bank receives a \$7,500 donation

DIETZ & WATSON DONATES ON BEHALF OF GIANT EAGLE

Giant Eagle Supermarket shoppers, who purchased Dietz & Watson premium deli meats and cheeses from November 2 to December 6th of last year, participated in *Families Helping Families*, a national Dietz & Watson charitable purchase program run with partner supermarkets. Giant Eagle customers were encouraged to purchase Dietz & Watson products in order to make a contribution to a local charity or organization within the retailer's community. Giant Eagle chose to support the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

On January 22, 2018, Dietz & Watson Strategic Sales Representative Michelle Helena Denk joined with Giant Eagle Deli Team Leader Jan Papp and Giant Eagle Senior Team Leader Eric Buttolph in presenting a check for \$7,500 to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

Greater Cleveland Food Bank Senior Manager of Corporate Relations Joanne Clemens and Greater Cleveland Food Bank Marketing & Corporate Events Manager Kellie

Billier were on hand to accept the check. In all, six food banks in communities in Ohio and Pennsylvania received \$7,500 checks from Dietz & Watson on behalf of Giant Eagle through the *Families Helping Families* purchase program. It is estimated that the \$45,000 donated to the six food banks on behalf of Giant Eagle, will fund 202,500 meals.

Visitors to the check presentation ceremony were treated with samples of Dietz and Watson meats and cheeses served by mother and daughter team Mary Ann and Jessica Cerney. The samples included sausage, chicken and cheddar cheese.

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in Northeast Ohio. In 2017, it provided 55 million meals to hungry people in Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Ashland and Richland counties.

Dietz & Watson is a Philadelphia-based premium deli meat and cheese company.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Monday, January 22, 2018; Giant Eagle Supermarket, 3050 W. 117th Street: Dietz & Watson Deli Meats and Cheeses donates \$7,500 to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on behalf of retail partner Giant Eagle. (L-R) Giant Eagle Deli Team Leader Jan Papp; Giant Eagle Senior Team Leader Eric Buttolph; Dietz & Watson Representative Michelle Helena Denk; Greater Cleveland Food Bank Representatives Kellie Biller and Joanne Clemens.

COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

LENT

LENTEN SOUP AND SESSION at Our Lady Of Mount Carmel West on Thursdays in Lent (including February 15 and 22) at 6928 Detroit Ave. in Fr. Marino Hall from 6:30 to 8 pm. No charge; freewill offerings are welcome. West Side Little Italy Block Club. For more information, call 216/281-9304.

LITERATURE

CLEVELAND HUMANITIES FESTIVAL by Literary Cleveland. Submit original works including play, poem, personal essay, short story or other literary pieces on the theme of "Health." Submissions less than 1,000 words should be sent to info@litcleveland.org with the subject line "Cleveland Humanities Festival staged reading" by Friday, February 9th. Examples of the types of submissions they are seeking may include, but are not limited to: Care giver experiences; Doctors, nurses and medical students reflecting on their roles as providers; Stories of dealing with mental illness; Encounters with the health care system; Reflections on aging in American society; End-of-life experiences; and Opinions on our current healthcare system. Literary Cleveland will organize a free staged reading during the Cleveland Humanities Festival, on Saturday, March 17th and Sunday, March 18th at 7 pm at Cleveland State University's student center ballroom. A director and actors will be hired to perform the work.

CREATIVE WRITING. Imad Rahman, Director of Creative Writing Programming at CSU and author of *Dream of Microwaves*, sat down with Lit Cleveland intern Rob Daniels to chat about creating characters, his approach to teaching creative writing, which authors he'd invite to his private dinner party, and more. Visit <http://www.litcleveland.org>.

DEATH WARMED OVER: Writing Historical Murder Mysteries. The first Between the Lines of the year features acclaimed mystery authors D.M. Pulley and Casey Daniels! A free author talk on the craft of writing historical murder mysteries, brief readings from each author and an audience Q&A. Wednesday, February 21, 7-9p at Happy Dog at the Euclid Tavern, 11625 Euclid Ave., University Circle. Sponsored by Literary Cleveland.

Gordon Square Review will accept

submissions for its second issue through March 15. Writers will receive \$25 per accepted prose piece and \$10 per accepted poem. They are unable to consider reviews, interviews, academic work, dramatic scripts, or writing for children. All submitted work must be previously unpublished in any print or online venues, including personal blogs. For more information, visit <http://www.gordonsquarereview.org/submit.html>

ONE COMMUNITY READS is a collaboration amongst the City Club of Cleveland, Playhouse Square and all nine local public library systems to create a shared reading experience for the Greater Cleveland community. Go to <https://www.onecommunityreads.org> for a full catalogue of book discussions, community events, and film screenings centered on Matthew Desmond's Pulitzer-Prize winning book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Runs through Thursday, April 19 at assorted locations.

MENTAL HEALTH

SUICIDE, as they say, is a permanent solution for a temporary problem. Although you may not think the problems are temporary at the time, they are. For help for yourself or a friend call The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255; opened 24/7. For more information visit The Jason Foundation at: www.jasonfoundation.com. The Jason Foundation, Inc. is a nationally recognized leader in youth suicide prevention and awareness.

METRO WEST

METRO WEST ANNUAL CELEBRATION is scheduled for Thursday, February 1 from 6 pm to 8 pm at Menlo Park Academy at 2149 West 53rd Street. RSVPs are requested, but not required. To RSVP, contact Kristyn Zollos at kzollos@metrowestcle.org.

POLITICS

Community/Faith Swearing-in Ceremony of Councilwoman **JASMIN SANTANA** on February 23 at Family Ministry Center at 3389 Fulton Rd, from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Join community members and faith leaders at this free event. All members of the community are invited to participate. Jasmin Santana is the new

City Council Member for Ward 14: Visit www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/ward-14, call 216/664-4238, email jsantana@clevelandcitycouncil.org, Twitter @jsantanaward14, or Facebook @clevelandcity.

POT HOLES

REPORT POT HOLES to the Division of Streets Street Repair at 216/664-2510 Weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm. If you report a pothole and then afterwards damage your car driving over it, the city will reimburse you to fix it.

SEEDS OF LITERACY

Seeds of Literacy is looking for **tutors** for 2018. For more information, visit <https://www.seedsofliteracy.org/get-involved/volunteer/> Accepting **new students** for adult ed and GED prep: visit www.seedsofliteracy.org or call 216/661-7950.

SCAMS

REFUNDS FROM WESTERN UNION for scam victims who wired money to scammers through Western Union to apply for refunds by the February 12 deadline. The Justice Department is refunding the money to fraud victims who wired money to scammers through Western Union between January 1, 2004, and January 19, 2017. Consumers who believe they are eligible for refunds should visit FTC.gov/WU for claim forms and updates. Consumers can contact the claims administrator at 1-844-319-2124. To report a scam, call the Scam Squad at 216-443-SCAM (7226).

TAX PREPARATION

Free Tax Prep Location at Gordon Square Arcade computer lab (6516 Detroit Ave) To schedule an appointment for tax preparation, call 2-1-1 and explain that you would like to have your taxes prepared at the Gordon Square site **OR** walk-in Tuesdays 5:30 pm to 8 pm and Saturdays 9 am to 4 pm. (They will take the first 10 walk-ins on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm and Saturdays both 9 am and 1:30pm. Site is closed February 3.) **Additional Tax Site** - Lin Omni Building (3167 Fulton Road): Wednesdays 5:30-8:00 pm (They will take the first 10 walk-ins) and Saturdays 10:00am-4:30pm (They will take the first 10 walk-ins both at 10am and 1:30pm. Site is closed February 3)

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FAKE NEWS FROM THE HOOD

Life is too short to be normal

by B. Chefsky

After hearing a gunshot and seeing a man speed away from the scene, a neighbor found the body of Virgil Hunter lying face down on the carpeted floor of his third story apartment on West 25th Street, according to a 911 call.

"I heard a gunshot and saw someone run down the stairs. I walked back over to the apartment ... and someone has been shot," the male caller told a dispatcher.

"I think this gentleman is dead," the caller said.

By the time paramedics arrived Virgil had no pulse. He was pronounced dead at the scene at 1:15 a.m. on Wednesday, January 19, 1994, the coldest day in Cleveland history.

HISTORICAL FICTON

In the remaining hours before sunlight, crime detectives from the Cleveland Division of Police rummaged through Virgil's apartment for clues to his murder. Hair fibers found on the living room couch were gathered into plastic evidence bags and tagged with his name along with other biological evidence. Latent print evidence like fingerprints, palm and foot prints were collected. His shoes were placed in a bag. The scene was photographed and documented. The crime scene investigation team included three professionals along with uniformed officers. The coroner oversaw the handling of the body.

A handful of reporters bundled in thick winter coats, wool hats, scarfs and gloves, braved the subzero weather to arrive at the scene by 4:00 a.m., rushing out of their vans with cameras in hand. NEWS 8 reported the story as a break-in

with a possible murder victim. *The Plain Dealer* published a story in the Metro News later that morning with the headline, "Police Identify Murder Victim from West Side."

"The door to the victim's apartment was forcibly opened to gain entry," they wrote, adding "Mr. Virgil Hunter was apparently surprised by the intruder or intruders. Evidence collected at the scene suggests a struggle took place."

The article further noted that results from the DNA tests could take weeks or even months depending on the quality of the physical evidence.

"There were no reported witnesses," concluded the PD.

The story was followed by a photograph of Virgil placed alongside the cartoon character Daffy Duck. A generous gutter of whitespace separated the two pictures.

Daffy Duck had nothing to do with Virgil's murder. But the striking similarities in their appearance were obvious.

To regular readers of the newspaper, this didn't strike them as strange, causing some concern with publication specialists later. Daffy Duck had nothing to do with Virgil's murder. But the striking similarities in their appearance were obvious. Both were gangly looking with round dark eyes and three small tufts of hair at the very top of their heads. With two small arcs, just above their eyes for eyebrows, an elongated neck and broad smile, they matched brilliantly to each other.

News of Virgil's murder appeared on page D4, in the lower quarter of the page, between advertisements for automobile tires and outdoor lawn furniture at Home Depot. Staff employees at the newspaper didn't notice the Daffy Duck blunder until a customer from Parma phoned the editors desk to ask what the cartoon duck had to do with Virgil's death. The phone receptionist was taken aback by surprise.

"Oh, my goodness," said a shaky voice at the PD, when asked about the article. "I'll let our front office know right away."

When Dixie Hare read about Virgil's death, she was both horrified and grief stricken. She told co-workers at Clark's restaurant where she worked the graveyard shift that Virgil was her regular customer.

"He sat at the same table in the corner every morning, order two fried eggs firm, toasted rye bread with butter, bacon, and home fries," Dixie said. "He drank three cups of coffee and read the paper while he ate. He always left a decent tip. I can't believe he's dead," she told Marcy, a line cook in the kitchen.

"Sounds like he was murdered, honey," Marcy corrected her.

A few days later, the PD retracted the article in small print on page D3 of the Metro News stating that the "unfortunate incident was an error on [their part]," and further apologized for "misrepresenting the victim". The well-scripted but brief retraction failed to mention how the error happened or why editors at the newspaper didn't notice it before going to print. The newspaper stated that it was an "embarrassing incident" and pledged to deal with

the issue internally "consistent with its values to serve the Cleveland community."

The closing paragraph reported that a suspect or suspects in Virgil's murder remained at large and anyone with information should contact the Cleveland Division of Police. A homicide hotline number was provided.

Walt Disney Company filed a law suit against the PD for infringement rights on the misuse of their corporate image Daffy Duck. A spokesperson for the company at the time said in a statement: "This lawsuit is not a publicity ploy and we look forward to vigorously defending Daffy Duck."

For their part, the PD issued a brief but separate retraction in the Business Section claiming responsibility for the oversight but insisted no harm was done.

"The duck obviously didn't murder Mr. Hunter," they wrote. "But until an investigation is completed we maintain our innocence."

The case was settled out of court for an undisclosed sum of money. The New York Times reported the settlement amount to be in the high six figures. CNN reported even higher settlement numbers.

The Cleveland Police Homicide Unit solved Virgil's murder several years later. Evidence collected from the crime scene pointed to E. J. Fudd, a wildlife photographer from St. Louis. Mr. Fudd, also known as E. Keith, was known for his uncanny pictures of rabbits. A small-time thug

with a long criminal record, he was also wanted for tax evasion. He allegedly broke into Virgil's apartment on the night in question to steal his stereo and television, and take whatever else he could find to reportedly support his drug addiction.

In a court appearance in 2001, Fudd, in a brown derby, a baggy suit, and a high-collared shirt, claimed he followed Virgil back to his apartment that evening but did not intend to kill him.

District Attorney F. Leghorn provided evidence to the contrary stating, "It was Mr. Fudd's intention to gain entry into Mr. Hunter's residence, aware that he was at home, to steal his property in order to trade or sell the merchandise for drugs resulting in an altercation. He then bludgeoned and shot Mr. Hunter to death with a double-barreled shotgun."

A jury found E. J. Fudd guilty and sentenced him to life in prison.

Dixie, originally from Brooklyn, New York, retired from Clark's restaurant in 2007 to work part time serving cocktails on a party boat to Kelleys Island in the summer and during the winter she traveled to Panama City, Florida, where she kicked around flea markets and played bingo at storefront churches along the Southern coastline with her half-sister Jane.

"Gruesome, isn't it?" she told a reporter following Mr. Fudd's conviction.

Attention Nonprofit Organizations!

The Plain Press Community Guide will be published in the March Issue of the *Plain Press*.

If your organization is new, or has changed its name or phone number since last year, please send an email to the *Plain Press* at plainpress@gmail.com with information for your free listing in the guide.

To place more than your organization's name and phone number in the guide, please purchase an ad in the Community Guide. If you are interested in finding out about how to advertise in the Community Guide, email the Plain Press at plainpressads@yahoo.com for details or call 216-621-3060.



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