



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Monday, April 23, 2018; Health and Human Services Committee Meeting, Mercedes Cotner Committee Room 217, Cleveland City Hall, 601 Lakeside Ave., N.E.: Case Manager Theresa Davis-Bowling testifies before the committee about her work with families whose children have been poisoned with lead. See related story on page 5

Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Lincoln Heights Block Club weighs in on proposed Urban Form Overlay along Scranton, W. 25 & Barber

by Chuck Hoven

In an 11-2 vote at its March 12th meeting, the Lincoln Heights Block Club soundly rejected a proposal presented by Tremont West Development Corporation Housing and Economic Development Director

Matt Moss and the City of Cleveland Planning Department to place an Urban Form Overlay along portions of Scranton, W. 25th and Barber Avenue in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood.

Much of the discussion about

the Urban Form Overlay, centered around the parking reductions allowed for businesses and new developments. Residents, who already have trouble finding parking places near their homes that they attribute to development in the neighborhood, spoke out against reducing parking requirements for new construction by 35%.

Proponents of the Urban Form Overlay say requirements to place parking lots in the rear of facilities and requiring fewer parking spaces will make the neighborhood more pedestrian friendly. The hope is that some residents of new developments and customers of new businesses, will choose to go car free and walk, cycle or take the bus thus reducing the need for the current parking requirements. The city's plan calls for more dense developments along major corridors such as W. 25th and Scranton and less density on side streets. Planners maintain that increasing population density will help attract businesses that residents can walk to.

At the April 9th meeting of the Lincoln Heights Block Club, Block Club President Henry Senyak expressed disappointment that the Economic Development Committee of Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC), after a back and forth discussion about the benefits continued on page 4



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, April 21, 2018; The 2018 Great Cleveland Clean-Up, Clark Avenue near W. 25th in front of United Bank Building Parking lot: Salina Pagan, President of the Young Latino Network, has a booth with water bottles and snacks for volunteers from the Young Latino Network coming to help with The Litterbugz Great Cleveland Clean-Up. Pagan said she expected 5-10 volunteers from the Young Latino Network.

Cleveland City Council needs to change the way it operates to avoid further corruption

by Chuck Hoven

The practice by Cleveland City Council of giving exclusive say to the sitting Council Representative over decisions about projects in their ward, in effect, creates what political scientists call "functional fiefdoms" and is an invitation to corruption and influence peddling. The recent guilty plea to 26 misdemeanor ethics charges by former Ward 3 Councilman Joe Cimperman is just one example of what can go wrong by continuing this long-standing practice.

choose which organizations to fund, is an improper function for a legislative body. It gives too much say to individual council people over organizations in their ward and makes those organizations beholden to the council representatives. It also perpetuates the funding of organizations that a single councilperson favors over other organizations that may have a superior proposal to address a policy priority.

"The practice by Cleveland City Council of giving exclusive say to the sitting Council Representative over decisions about projects in their ward, in effect, creates what political scientists call "functional fiefdoms" and is an invitation to corruption and influence peddling."

The practice of City Council members all deferring to a colleague's continued on page 3



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, April 21, 2018; The 2018 Great Cleveland Clean-Up, W. 41st in Clark Fulton neighborhood: Jeff Schlekke, Executive Director of The LitterBugz picks up trash with a crew of volunteers that met at Trent Park. Schlekke says over 1,000 volunteers worked from 35 meet up locations to pick up trash in locations throughout Cuyahoga County.

The Litterbugz volunteers clean-up trash throughout the city

by Chuck Hoven

On Saturday, April 21, over 1,000 volunteers met up at 35 locations in Cuyahoga County to pick up litter as part of the Great Cleveland Clean-up. The Litterbugz, a nonprofit organization dedicated to litter clean-up and prevention, organized the event.

On the Near West Side of Cleve-

land, police officers from the Second District Community Service Unit, volunteers from the Cleveland Police Foundation and members of the Young Latino Network were among the volunteers that joined in the effort to pick up litter.

The Litterbugz Executive Director Jeff Schlekke says each year on the

Saturday closest to Earth Day, the Litterbugz organize a countywide clean-up. The goal of The Litterbugz is to be able to clean-up the litter in the entire county in one day by the year 2020.

Schlekke addressing a group of continued on page 8



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, April 21, 2018; The Litterbugz's 2018 Great Cleveland Clean-Up and Cleanin' With Cops, Trent Park, Trent Avenue between W. 41st and Fulton: Officer Douglas Nichols and Hugo from the Canine Unit join with members of the Second District Community Service Unit after the neighborhood clean-up. The Second District crew said they gathered eight bags of trash in the neighborhood. (L-R): Police Officer Douglas Nichols and Hugo, Officer John Hategan, Officer Chris Lozinak, Sergeant Robert Daunch, Officer Dave Hamilton and Officer John Fore.

NEWS ANALYSIS

City Council should be in the business of passing legislation that creates citywide policies for programs that address Cleveland pressing needs. The administration should then design criterion for programs that would answer the policy needs City Council outlines. Non-profit organizations and government agencies should then respond with competitive proposals to be selected by City Departments to perform those services.

Having City Council members



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, April 21, 2018; The 2018 Great Cleveland Clean-Up, Clark Avenue near W. 25th in front of United Bank Building Parking lot: Litterbugz Volunteer Jeph Wahl plays guitar for volunteers.

ARTS/THEATRE/FILM
FREE SCREENING OF THE AWARD WINNING DOCUMENTARY DOLORES: Thursday, May 3, at Lutheran Hospital Castele Auditorium. Reception at 5:30 p.m. along with brief discussion on Immigration. Movie to follow.

STATION HOPE, hosted by Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT) is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, beginning at 6:30pm on the grounds of St. John's Episcopal Church, 2600 Church Avenue. Station Hope is a jubilant community event inspired by the Underground Railroad and Cleveland's social justice heritage, featuring over 250 individual artists and 50+ community and professional arts & culture organizations from across Northeast Ohio, creating diverse original works reflecting on and engaging with contemporary themes of social justice, equity, and a shared vision of hope. No tickets needed. The family-friendly event is FREE AND OPEN TO ALL. For more information, visit <http://www.cptonline.org/performances/seasons/2017-2018/station-hope-2018/>

RACIAL EQUITY & INCLUSION FILM SERIES: *The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975.* Tuesday, May 8th at 6:30 p.m. at Capitol Theatre, 1390 W. 65th Street. Suggested donation \$5.00. Food provided afterward for discussion in upstairs meeting room of XYZ Tavern (cash bar).
WALKABOUTTREMONT is held every second Friday from 6 to 10 pm. For more information, visit walkabouttremont.com
78TH STREET STUDIOS, 1300 W. 78th Street. Art Opening for over 50 studios and galleries every 3rd Friday of every month, 5-9 p.m. 78streetstudios.com.

BENEFITS

OHIO BENEFITS: Need to apply, renew or report changes to your Medicaid. Call 1-844-640-OHIO (6446).

CUYAHOGA BENEFITS: To apply for childcare, food assistance, cash assistance, or Prevention, Retention, and Contingency Program (PRC) benefits call the Cuyahoga Benefits Application Hotline at 216-416-4440. You can also visit a Cuyahoga Job and Family Services Neighborhood Family Service Center: Old Brooklyn, 4261 Fulton Parkway, 635-2918; or Westshore, 9830 Lorain Avenue, 939-2523.

CITY OF CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND WATER OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., 1245 W. 45th Street. Celebrate Drinking Water Week at Garrett A. Morgan Water Treatment Plant: Water Treatment Plant tours; hands on exhibits, and family fun and activities and views from new scenic overlook.

FREE EMERGENCY ALERTS FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD: Keep informed about emergency situations in your neighborhood with this GodeRED service. To sign up visit www.city.cleveland.oh.us.

VACANT LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM: vacant land is available through the Land Bank Program for side yard expansion or new construction. Applications sought that will contribute to the economic, social or environmental

betterment of the city. Lots also can be leased or licensed for certain interim uses such as community/market gardens. Questions and information call the Land Bank Office at 664-4126.

COMMUNITY

OPEN STREETS CLEVELAND: May 6th, 1-5 p.m. on Detroit Avenue from W. 25th to W. 65th. Come out and play, eat, walk and roll on a car free street. Event will have a 1 and 2 mile dash, interactive art demos, touch-a-truck demos, games and more. For more information visit openstreetscle.org.

MAY 8TH PRIMARY ELECTION: Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. Bring Identification: a driver's license or state identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and current address.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: AIR QUALITY: Thursday, May 10, 2:30-4 p.m., Lakeview Tower Community Room, 2700 Washington. Discussion of dust from Ontario Stone just North of Lakeview Terrace Estates. Piles of gravel and sand more than 2.5 stories high are supposed to be wet down and/or covered with tarps according to permits. Discussion of air quality due to blowing of sand and dirt with Councilman Kerry McCormack and the Department of Health Air Quality Division.

CLEVELAND COMMUNITY POLICE COMMISSION will meet on May 22 at 6 p.m. at Zone Recreation Center, 6301 Lorain Avenue. Empowered by the Settlement Agreement, the mission of the Cleveland Community Police Commission is to make recommendations on policies and practices related to community and problem-oriented policing, bias-free policing and police transparency.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION AROUND EVICTION AND HOUSING INSECURITY: Thursday, May 24, 6-8 p.m. at Cogswell Hall, 7200 Franklin Blvd. Will use Pulitzer Prize winning book *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond to frame discussion. Copies of *Evicted* are available at Waltz Branch Library, 7010 Detroit Ave. Discussion will be facilitated by Amy Dawson, Manager of the Literature Department and Ohio Center for the Book at Cleveland Public Library. Light meal will be provided for participants. RSVP with Ashley Wilson at Detroit Shoreway CDO at 961-4242 ext.243 or awilson@dscdo.org.

K"NO" W HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMUNITY GATHERING: Human Tuesday, May 29, 6-8pm, Urban Community School (4909 Lorain Avenue) Human trafficking and street prostitution are prevalent on the near west side of Cleveland. The goal of this gathering is to engage, educate and empower residents to better understand what human trafficking is, and what it isn't. Residents will be able to hear from survivors, local organizations and receive tools they can implement to help others in need. A short film will be shown by the Renee Jones Empowerment Center. After there will be a panel style dialogue. Resources will



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.

be available to those who wish to learn more or find ways they can get involved. Light refreshments provided. Questions? Contact Jeremy Taylor at (216) 961-4242 ext. 233 or jtaylor@dscdo.org
DSCDO NEIGHBORING FUND provides financial support to help forge meaningful neighbor-to-neighbor relationships across racial, educational and economic backgrounds in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood. Examples of neighboring include potlucks, cornhole games and more. Contact Ashley Wilson at awilson@dscdo.org or 216-961-4242x243 for information or to request an application.

FAMILIA has been established to engage, empower, and create a voice for the residents of the Clark-Fulton area to address issues such as safety, housing, education, civic rights and health issues for the wellbeing of families in the community. Meetings are held every 3rd Monday of the month, from 6-7:30 pm, at Hispanic Alliance Inc, 3110 W. 25th Street (at Clark). For info, contact Sonia Monroy Matis, 216-661-4249 or smatis@hispanicallianceinc.org.

HANDS ACROSS CLE: The City of Cleveland Community Relations Board invites all Clevelanders to Hands Around Mall C, Resource Fair on Friday, June 15th from Noon to 2 p.m. For more information call the Community Relations Board at 664-3290.

HANDS ACROSS CLE: The City of Cleveland Community Relations Board invites all Clevelanders to Hands Across the Lorain Carnegie Bridge Street Festival on Friday September 1st from noon to 2 p.m. For more information call the Community Relations Board at 664-3290.

DONATIONS

DONATE YOUR UNWANTED, USABLE GOODS. Cuyahoga County businesses and residents can donate their unwanted items with the help of a useful book published by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District called *Pass It On: A Resource-Full Guide to Donating Usable Stuff*. It lists over 120 community service and nonprofit organizations that work on behalf of youth, seniors, the homeless and others in Cuyahoga County. Toys, art supplies, clothing, books, school supplies, office equipment, sporting goods, tools, furniture and more can be donated to the organizations listed in this guide. Donating usable goods helps others and reduces waste. Would-be donors of goods can search how to donate or recycle their items on the District's "What Do I Do With?" database at www.CuyahogaRecycles.org. Additionally, a printable PDF is available at: www.cuyahogarecycles.org/pass_it_on_book. People can also request copies of the soft-bound book by calling the Solid Waste District at 216.443.3749 or online at www.cuyahogarecycles.org/PublicationRequest.aspx.

EDUCATION

CHOICE MAGAZINE LISTENING: A free audio magazine for adults with impaired vision or other disability. Choice Magazine Listening records the best articles, stories and poems from over 100 of the finest magazines. Call toll free from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Eastern Time at 1-888-724-6423 or visit www.choice-magazinelistening.org.

EDUCATION, OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING, AND PERSONAL GOAL SETTING and a \$10 per hour stipend are among the features offered to individuals age 18-24 eligible for the OhioGuidestone CCMEP TANF Cuyahoga program. To qualify you will need to meet requirements for eligibility to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Orientations are held weekly. To reserve a spot call 440-260-6817.

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL) classes are offered by ASPIRE Greater Cleveland throughout the year at community centers and libraries. Adults who wish to attend the ESOL classes must complete an

orientation session. Call 833-277-4732 or visit the website: inspiregreatercleveland.org for a complete list of orientation sessions.

FREE GED PREP: Eastman Branch Library, W. 116th and Lorain Avenue, 2nd Floor. Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 10: 15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.. Instructor: Alex. No appointment necessary.

FREE ADULT BASIC EDUCATION & GED CLASSES: One-to-one tutoring, learn at your own pace, friendly and relaxed place to learn. Seeds of Literacy located at 3104 Clark Ave, 3rd Floor. Call 216-661-7950 or visit www.seedssofliteracy.org.

COLLEGE NOW'S FREE TEST PREP PROGRAM: IMPACT: an 8 week after-school program that focuses on ACT and SAT preparation and college and career readiness. Offered 3 times a year at Espenza, 3104 W. 25th. All materials are provided and students receive free meals daily. For more information call Program Coordinator Christiana Blakeslee at 635-0428 or email her at: CBlakeslee@collegenowqc.org.

FOOD PANTRY

LINCOLN WEST HIGH SCHOOL will have a food pantry on May 8th and June 12th from 3-5:30 p.m. Please bring your own bags.

ENVIRONMENT

RIVERSWEEP: Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m. – Noon. Volunteers needed for Canalway Partners cleanup. Bags and gloves provided. Free commemorative t-shirts available to the first 700 volunteers that sign up. Lunch provided at afterparty. For details call 216-520-1825 or visit: canalwaypartners.com.
SUMMER SPROUT COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM: Enrolled gardens are eligible for soil testing (required), soil amendments, plants, seeds & technical assistance. Training is also offered to market gardeners. For additional information visit: <http://tinyurl.com/kkokn9x> or contact the City's Summer Sprout coordinator at OSU Extension, 429-8200 ext. 246.

WEST SIDE CREATION CARE TEAM is an ecumenical grassroots organization promoting care for creation, including the climate crisis. WSCCT engages in public policy advocacy, with members writing letters to local newspapers, and directly to state and local lawmakers and executives on legislation related to sustainable, renewable energy alternatives and other issues that affect how we care for creation. To receive notices of meetings, events, etc., or to schedule a presentation at your faith community, send an email to: westsidecreation-care@gmail.com.

HEALTH & SAFETY

FREE HEALTH CLINIC: Medworks Clinic at Neighborhood Family Practice, 3569 Ridge Road, Saturday, May 12, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Medical exams for men and women, women's health exams, pap tests, dental screenings and extractions, bloodwork, PLUS fresh produce to take home. To make an appointment visit www.medworksusa.org or call 216-201-9325. Walk-ins welcome. Get a free \$10 Dave's Card.

ARE YOU CONSIDERING QUITTING SMOKING IN 2018? Are you over 18 with a cell phone with online access? Join our new research study and get a text messaging program for smokers ready to quit; free counseling on how to quit; free nicotine patches or gum; paid to complete surveys. Help us learn what works for our community. Call NOW to join Path2Quit: 216-754ICAN or 216-754-4226 Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROJECT DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Nalozone) Program for individuals who use opioids and are at risk of death from opioid overdose and family and friends of those who are at risk of death from opioid overdose. Learn how to recognize and overdose and how to administer naloxone to reverse and opioid overdose. Distribute naloxone to participants free of charge.

Cleveland Department of Public Health Thomas McCafferty Health Center, 4242 Lorain Ave. Walk-in hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. and Thursdays Noon- 8p.m. For more information please call Project DAWN at 778-5677 or visit www.metrohealth.org/projectdawn.

FREE SMOKE ALARMS FOR YOUR HOME are available through Operation Save-A-Life, a program of the American Red Cross and the Cleveland Fire Department, that provides free smoke alarms and batteries to Cleveland residents. Smoke alarms are installed by Cleveland firefighters at no cost to residents. Please note that application and installation process may take up to 90 days. Call the Operation Save-A-Life 24-hour hotline at 216-361-5535 to apply for free smoke alarms.

ARE YOU 15-45 YEARS OLD? University Hospitals is looking for volunteers age 15-45, with a parent with bipolar disorder, schizoaffective disorder, or schizophrenia. Call Nicole at 216-286-6541 or email: mdp@UHospitals. Participants will be compensated for their time, parking and other travel-related costs.

LEGAL ADVICE

FREE LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC: The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland offers free, first come, first served, legal advice event for low-income individuals. July 14 at Lorain Branch Library, 8216 Lorain Ave. Intake from 10 – 11 a.m. For more information call 687-1900.

ACLU SUMMER PROGRAM: Locked Out: Collateral Sanctions & Barriers to Re-Entry. Program on difficulty for individuals with criminal convictions in finding housing. May 22, 5:30 p.m., ACLU of Ohio, 4506 Chester Avenue. Free Parking. Light Refreshments. To RSVP visit www.ACLUOHIO.org/calendar, email: rsvp@acluohio.org, or call 216-472-2200.

PARENTING

METROHEALTH MOMS: Sign up for a chance to win a stylish diaper kit, free weekly emails, personalized to the growth and development of your baby. MetroHealth Moms guides you through your pregnancy. Each week learn something new about the growth of your baby. To sign up visit metrohealth.org/birthing and click on the MetroHealth Moms icon on the right-hand side.

MOMS FIRST: A helping hand for your pregnancy and your baby. Are you Pregnant? Do you live in the city of Cleveland? MomsFirst can help you learn how to reduce the stress that comes with being pregnant and parenting; connect to resources for housing, education and health care; understand how to keep your baby safe; find birth control options that work; set and achieve your goals before and after birth. Call 216-664-4194 to connect to a MomsFirst provider in your area. www.momsfirst.org.

BOOT CAMP FOR NEW DADS: A program for Dads only, taught by veteran dads. One day, three hour course in a relaxed comfortable setting. Learn the best way to hold, feed and cuddle your new baby. Learn to change diapers. Interact with real babies with the help of male instructors skilled in baby care. Offered three times per month at MetroHealth Main Campus 216-778-3381. Breakfast or lunch will be provided.

STEPS TO A HEALTHIER WEIGHT PROGRAM: designed for people with a BMI of 25 and above. FREE for Reproductive Health Clinic patients at McCafferty Health Center (Room 233). Free access to exercise facilities and childcare included. For more information call Kathleen, RN at 216-664-4269.

POLITICAL ACTION

NORTHERN OHIOANS FOR BUDGET LEGISLATION EQUALITY Ohio Medicaid Work Requirement Update: Currently the State of Ohio is working to submit Medicaid work requirements to the

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League of Women Voters back Ohio Issue One

The League of Women Voters are backing Ohio State Issue One with a volunteer presence out in the community as well as with information on their website. If it passes, Issue One will change the way Ohio draws up congressional district boundaries.

Literature from the League of Women Voters of Ohio says the new way of drawing up Congressional Districts will result in fairer and more competitive Congressional Districts. They say, currently, Ohio has some of the most gerrymandered Congressional Districts in the country. The League of Women Voters say such districts make it possible for a "party that gets fewer votes to win

more seats." Their literature demonstrates how gerrymandered districts are drawn to unfairly favor one party over another.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland's website says Issue One: "Prevents uncontrolled gerrymandering; Requires bipartisan maps; Reduces community splits"; and the "Public can submit maps"

Visitors to the art openings at Third Friday at W. 78th Street Studios in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood were greeted by Sue Dean-Dyke, Melanie Biche and Alice Butts, volunteers from the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleve-

land, who passed out literature and talked to potential voters about the importance of passing State Issue One.

Sue Dean-Dyke says she believes Issue One has a chance of passing because it has bipartisan support. Literature from the League of Women Voters of Ohio notes that the State Legislature voted "114 to 10" to place Issue One on the statewide ballot.

Dean-Dyke said that members of the League of Women Voters of Ohio had a seat at the table in helping to create Issue One. The League of Women Voters literature says, "Fair congressional districts ensure voters' voices count and make it possible to hold politicians accountable."

According to the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland website, the League is committed to this proposal. However, if it doesn't pass on May 8th, the League of Women Voters will continue to collect signatures to place another proposal to create fair congressional districts on the November ballot.

Common Cause of Ohio has also given its support to Issue 1. Their literature calls for "Fair Districts/Fair Elections." The literature says: "Let Ohio voters choose their representatives. Keep politicians from hand-picking their voters. Stop the unfair practice of gerrymandering."

Primary Election set for Tuesday, May 8th

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday May 8th. On election day, the polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

According to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, you will need one of the following forms of identification to vote: a current and valid Ohio driver's license, or state identification card; or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and current address.

If you would like to vote early, you can go to the Board of Elections at 2923 Euclid Avenue. Early voting hours are 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 5th; 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 6th; and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, May 7th.

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections notes that the May 8th Election is a primary election so you can establish which political party you want to belong when you select a ballot. You can switch political parties, if you wish to, during this election. You can also vote as an independent. So, when you go to the polls, you can select a Democratic, Republican, Green Party or "issues only" non-partisan ballot.

If you need to check to see if you are registered; to locate your polling place; or need the number of your ward or letter for your precinct, you can call the Board of Elections at 216-443-8683.

To view the ballot ahead of time to study the issues and candidates you can go to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website at: www.w.443vote.com. Click on "What's On My Ballot" and then enter the date of the election, your City, Ward and Precinct. You will also have to

choose a political party or non-partisan (issues only) ballot.

This year's primary election will feature statewide candidates running for Governor, Auditor, Treasurer, Secretary of State, Attorney General and the Ohio Supreme Court.

The primary will also feature federal candidates running for the United States Senate and Congress.

Candidates will also be competing to represent their party in the General Election for seats in the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate.

In Cuyahoga County the primary election will feature the County Executive, some County Council seats and County Judges. (For nonpartisan information on judicial candidates voters can visit judge4yourself.com.)

Political Party Officers will be elected to the State Central Committee and Democrats will elect members of the County Central Committee.

There is one statewide issue on the Primary Ballot, State, Issue One, (see related article) which changes the method for establishing political voting boundaries for Congressional Districts in Ohio.

There is one countywide issue, Issue 9, a renewal of the Cuyahoga County Health and Human Services Levy.

The Cleveland Catholic Worker, West Side Mutual Aid Association and Guide to Kulchur want to hear from residents who may be adversely affected by increasing development on the west side of Cleveland.

- Has your rent increased over the past few years?
- Have your property taxes increased?
- Have you received an offer to sell your home?
- Are you considering leaving the neighborhood or already moved out because you can no longer afford to live here?

If you answered YES to any of these questions then we want to hear from you. Send an email to clehousing4all@gmail.com with your contact information and we will follow up to listen to your story.

CITY COUNCIL REFORM NEEDED

continued from page one

decision about what happens in their ward also prevents discussion and debate about important institutions that have city wide impact such as the West Side Market.

Allowing City Councilmembers say over expenditures of certain funds also gives an undo measure of power to City Council leadership. The leadership can reward or punish votes by individual city council members by doling out extra funds for their ward or cutting back on those funds.

The guilty pleas by Cimperman should be a wakeup call to Cleve-



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Friday, April 20, 2018; Third Friday at W. 78th Street Studios, 1300 W. 78th Street: Volunteers Melanie Biche and Alice Butts campaign for State Issue One, a measure on the State of Ohio Ballot to create a bipartisan process for drawing Congressional Districts.

The folks on the other side of City Hall, the Administration, should be the ones making funding decisions for organizations based on a competitive bidding process. City Council's role would be to monitor the administration to assure that process is fair and meets the policy needs outlined in legislation.

Visit the *Plain Press* online at: www.plainpress.org

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Old Brooklyn 4140 Pearl Rd., Cleveland 216-584-KIDS (5437) • Market Square 2500 W. 25th St., Cleveland 216-930-KIDS (5437)



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Friday, April 20, 2018; Third Friday at W. 78th Street Studios, 1300 W. 78th Street: *Wrapped Up In Each Other*, an oil on canvas painting by Sarah Curry.

LINCOLN HEIGHTS

continued from page one

and drawbacks of the Urban Form Overlay, decided to postpone a vote on the issue. Senyak said, "I would hope the Economic Development

Committee of TWDC would support the wishes of the block club."

Ward 3 City Council Representative Kerry McCormack and TWDC Executive Director Cory Riordan both attended the April 9th meeting of the Lincoln Heights Block Club

and were asked to weigh in on the proposed Urban Form Overlay proposal.

Council Representative McCormack said a letter he received from the Lincoln Heights Block Club expressing their concerns "seems

Cleveland Public Library's capital projects: Jefferson Branch repairs are underway

As Cleveland Public Library approaches its 150th anniversary, the Library is embarking on an ambitious, multiyear capital project to ensure its neighborhood branch libraries can continue to function as safe, inclusive, and sustainable environments.

The first phase of this two-pronged revitalization project will address critical repairs to ten branches located throughout the Library system. Branches impacted by this maintenance work include Lorain, Glenville, Jefferson, Harvard-Lee, Carnegie West, Addison, Fulton, Langston Hughes, Rockport, and Collinwood.

As the first branches scheduled for construction, Lorain and Glenville temporarily closed on

February 5, 2018.

Work has been completed at the Lorain Branch, W. 82nd and Lorain Avenue, and the library has reopened.

Additional branches will be closed for revitalization on a rolling basis throughout the spring and summer of 2018. Jefferson Branch in Tremont is currently closed. Carnegie West Branch, at Fulton and Bridge Avenue, will close when Jefferson Branch reopens in mid-June.

Most branch libraries are expected to close for approximately six to twelve weeks. During this process, patrons in affected neighborhoods will be redirected to nearby branches to obtain **continued on page 6**

very reasonable." The letter said, "We support the idea from TWDC Executive Director Cory Riordan to make the Urban Form Overlay neighborhood centric with flexibility for parking requirements, so specifically in Tremont that they remain a minimum of a 1 off-street parking space per unit proposed." McCormack went on to say that the City of Cleveland's current Zoning Code is "really messed up." McCormack said feedback from residents would be used to make changes in the proposal for the neighborhood.

One resident said the neighborhood wants to be allowed to give feedback on huge dense projects before the project starts. McCormack said, "We don't entertain projects until they come to block clubs."

TWDC Executive Director Riordan said, "I don't disagree with Henry's (Block Club Chair Henry Senyak) assessment." He also said Urban Form Overlay would give good design to the neighborhood.

One resident felt that the proposed Urban Form Overlay would allow developers to go ahead with a project without the need to request a variance, thus taking away power from residents to weigh in on the proposal. Cory Riordan then asked the question, "If we give up control,

do we get better projects?"

Riordan said the city's proposals to increase density along major corridors was about finding the best locations for dense development based on existing infrastructure.

One resident asked for research on where new people coming into the neighborhood are going to park.

Riordan described the balancing act that is involved in meeting the needs of businesses and residents. He said noting some businesses can't exist without outsiders coming in. Also, without increased population density, the residents can't get the businesses they want to walk to. He also noted that increasing parking requirements could mean businesses would buy up additional lots for parking.

"There is no perfect answer", Riordan said. He urged residents to think of zoning on a higher area wide level and not let it get muddled by dwelling on individual projects. He called zoning a "tool" to use to influence the built environment.

One resident called for an effort to restore public transit service by the Regional Transit Authority that has been cut back in the neighborhood so more people could take the bus.

Riordan responded asking the question, "How do we get the neighborhood we want?" He said one strategy would be to assure the neighborhood has good public transit. He said he has made a request to RTA to divert one of the W. 25th buses to go down Scranton from Metro Health Medical Center to Downtown.

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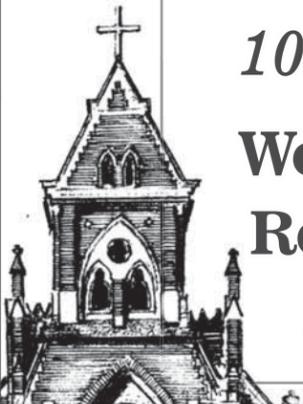
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City Council Health and Human Services Committee renews efforts to address lead poisoning of Cleveland's children

by Chuck Hoven

On April 23rd, the Cleveland City Council Health and Human Services Committee met for a two and a half hour hearing designed to update committee members on the progress of the City of Cleveland's interdepartmental task force in addressing the many children in Cleveland exposed to toxic levels of lead in their environment.

Committee Chair Blaine Griffin and members of City Council attending the hearing had suggestions as to how the City of Cleveland should tackle the city's longstanding problem of children suffering from lead poisoning.

Griffin suggested better tracking and use of the State of Ohio's data base on children in the city that have elevated lead levels. He called for looking at local ordinances where requirements for lead testing can be added. One such ordinance requires a medical exam for children entering day care. He suggested a mandatory lead test for children entering both day care and elementary school be required.

Another area Griffin suggested was making sure a work force was being developed so city departments and community organizations will have properly trained staff to be able to do the lead assessments and other tasks required to tackle this problem. Finally, Griffin said City Council members, administration officials and community activists should come up with recommendations for legislation to tackle the problem of lead poisoning based on best practices in other cities. Griffin called for "a package of legislation to address this comprehensively."

Urging commitment to tackling the problem of lead poisoning, Griffin said, "This is huge – roll your sleeves up. This is a marathon, not a sprint. We must make sure we do this right so the next generation of Clevelanders are not affected like the last generation."

Health and Human Service Committee Vice Chair Kerry McCormack said that prevention of lead poisoning was key. He urged committee members to think about what resources would be necessary from the city, private corporations, nonprofits and the state of Ohio to address the problem. McCormack

called on all members of City Council and the Mayor to harass people with money to pitch in the needed funds.

"This is huge – roll your sleeves up. This is a marathon, not a sprint. We must make sure we do this right so the next generation of Clevelanders are not affected like the last generation."

---- Cleveland City Council Health & Human Services Chair Blaine Griffin

Ward 14 City Council Representative Jasmin Santana spoke of her experience in identifying homes with lead issues for the Hispanic Alliance. Council Representative Santana said she often found the issues the family was dealing with were greater than lead. Tenants were dealing with lack of food, slum lords, bed bugs and no resources were available for families to go to another location while the lead was being abated – no hotel vouchers, she said.

Santana called for a solution to rents that are higher than families can afford and cited a need to address landlords with multiple properties that were not being taken care of properly.

Santana also noted that hiring inspectors that speak Spanish would save a lot of time spent in doing translations for tenants. She also called for letters to be sent to families noting high lead levels in children, be first translated into the first language of the families receiving the letter. She noted the Hispanic Alliance had to devote a lot of time to translation of letters for families.

Ward 1 City Council Representative Joe Jones noted that the city has had a problem with lead poisoning of children for over thirty years. He said despite budget hearings and city grants to alleviate the problem, there are still children with elevated lead levels everywhere.

Jones called for mandatory testing of children at birth. He said children need to be tested before they go to schools so that remediation can start immediately. "We can't keep doing what we are doing. It is not working," said Jones.

Ward 9 City Council Representative Kevin Conwell urged City Department of Public Health staff to walk the neighborhood with him and a group of community members to talk to residents and bring them information about how to prevent lead poisoning of their children.

Conwell further called for a registry of homeowners with lead problems in their houses. He urged legislation that modeled the registry after the nuisance registry. He said under such legislation, homeowners would be unable to rent or sell their property until they complied in abating the lead contamination in their property. He urged fellow members of City Council to "put a cloud on homeowners' title if they don't comply. We need teeth in legislation."

Ward 10 Council Representative Anthony Hairston called for creating a strategic alliance of groups working on the issue of lead poisoning, much like the alliance to work on infant mortality. Hairston called for an effort to get the private sector and foundations to step up to make sure there was funding for the effort needed. He urged hospitals, now working with the schools, to add lead testing to the service they provide. Hairston also called for information on preventing lead poisoning and testing to be an important focus of community health fairs.

Ward 12 City Council Representative Anthony Brancatelli said that the City of Cleveland already had some "significant rules and laws already in place" that help residents to address lead poisoning. For example, he said "Every resident has the right to call an inspector to inspect their home for lead."

While the hearing was designated as an update, Health and Human Services Committee Chair Blaine Griffin stressed, several times, to City officials testifying at the hearing, that some of the new members of City Council want to engage this issue and would need to hear information that other committee members may have heard before.

Committee Chair Griffin said the agenda would focus on the work of the Public Health and Community Development Departments. Griffin promised a future meeting to address issues related to lead



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Friday, April 20, 2018; Third Friday at W. 78th Street Studios, 1300 W. 78th Street: *Hearts of Sand*, a painting by Laurel Herbold is on display in her studio gallery.

poisoning that had to do with the Building and Housing Department and code enforcement. He asked Development, Planning and Sustainability Chair Councilman Anthony Brancatelli to hold a joint committee hearing with the Health and Human Service Committee to receive testimony from the Building and Housing Department.

Griffin also told activists from nonprofit organizations working to address the issue of lead poisoning, "we do want to hear your input." He promised "we will bring you in to have a discussion and an opportunity to testify."

Griffin said the Health and Human Services Committee was interested in learning about best practices in other cities and said he sees the

role of City Council to "Legislate, Educate and Activate." He said he would like to see City Council come up with a package of legislation to address the issue of lead poisoning comprehensively.

He urged members of the administration and community activists that have recommendations, bring them to him or his committee staff member, Takasha Nutall. Policy Research Associate Takash Nutall can be reached by phone at 216-664-4548 or by email at tnutall@clevelandcitycouncil.org.

City of Cleveland Chief of Public Affairs Natoya Walker Minor called upon City Council members to educate the public about the dangers of lead poisoning and how to prevent it

continued on page 6

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Friday, April 20, 2018; Third Friday at W. 78th Street Studios, 1300 W. 78th Street: *Tranquility*, an oil on canvas painting by Samuel J. Francazio, on display on a wall in Gallery +. Six regular artists display their work each month in Gallery +, a gallery owned by Zachary Hoon. Hoon says in addition to the 6 regulars, he features a new artist each month. Hoon also displays some of the work of past featured artists in the gallery, so the works of 18 to 20 artists are currently on display in the gallery.

LIBRARY REPAIRS

continued from page 4

library services. After the completion of repairs, the Library will seek feedback from within each branch's community to determine what additional improvements—such as configuring the interior space, making cosmetic improvements, incorporating new technologies, and more—might benefit the branch.

This branch revitalization plan marks

the third system-wide capital project in Cleveland Public Library's nearly 150-year history.

Changes for Jefferson Branch and Carnegie West Branch will focus on: ADA accessibility, HVAC systems, mechanical units, roofs, and fire alarms.

While these branches are temporarily closed, nearby branches will be open and ready to serve library patrons. To learn more about the branch revitalization project, visit CLEforgood.cpl.org.

LEAD POISONING

continued from page 5

in every issue of their newsletters.

Chief Walker Minor, in her presentation to the committee, gave an update on the Healthy Homes Interdepartmental initiative of the City of Cleveland.

Walker Minor said the Healthy Homes partnership involved increased coordination between City of Cleveland Departments involved in addressing the issue of lead that is poisoning Cleveland's children. She said city departments involved in the initiative included the Department of Public Health, the Community Development Department, the Department of Building and Housing, the Law Department, Public Utilities and the Water Department.

Chief Walker Minor told the committee that members from various departments were meeting twice a month for two hours to share their insights and referrals in addressing lead poisoning in Cleveland. Walker Minor said the group hopes to focus on measures that can prevent children from becoming poisoned with lead, as well as, a comprehensive focus on the entire issue of lead poisoning.

Director of the City of Cleveland Department of Public Health Merle Gordon, and Case Manager Theresa Davis-Bowling who works directly with families whose children have been poisoned by lead contamination, talked about the role that the Department of Public Health played in addressing lead poisoning of Cleveland's children.

Director Gordon said the biggest need was to share educational materials with residents so they can learn what they can do to make sure their children are not put in harm's way. The second thing people can do, she said, is to make sure their children are tested.

Director Gordon explained to committee members that Elevated Blood Levels (EBL) of lead in children are measured in micrograms per deciliter (mcg/dL). She said, "no lead is the goal." If children are found with an EBL of 5-9 mcg/dL that raises a level of concern where the case worker will try to help the family identify and eliminate the source of lead. Gordon said EBL of 10 mcg/dL or more require a mandatory report by the Public Health Department to the State of Ohio. The Public Health Department then is required by law to investigate both the child's health and assess the inside and outside of the home where the child is residing.

Gordon talked about the challenge of finding qualified inspectors to do the public health lead inspection in homes of children poisoned by lead. Gordon said that in 2015, there were only 5 qualified inspectors in the entire state of Ohio. There was no place in the state where a person could receive training and certification to do public health lead inspections. In addition, the city of Cleveland required inspectors to have a Sanitary Certification as well, she said.

Chief Walker Minor reported that currently Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) and the Cleveland Department of Public Health are collaborating on a course to train public health lead inspectors. Walker Minor said students in the Tri-C program are promising potential future lead inspectors.

Director Gordon noted that it is sometimes difficult to get into homes. When they do get in, public health lead inspectors do a very thorough lead inspection that takes about four hours. Responding to a question from Ward 3 Councilman Kerry McCormack, Director Gordon said that public health inspectors do not need the permission of a renter to enter the home, permission from either the parent or the property owner will suffice.

Director Gordon said if lead is found in the home, a report is issued. The parent and the home owner receive a copy of the report. Another report on the child's health and wellbeing is issued and only the parent receives a copy of that report, said Gordon.

After the finding of lead, and issuing of a report, the property owner has up to 90 days to remediate the problem, said Gordon. She also noted that up to three 90 day extensions are possible. If the lead problem is not remediated, Gordon said a warning letter is sent. The next steps involve issuing an order of noncompliance, followed by an order to vacate the property. Gordon said an "Order to Vacate placard" is then placed on the property. Gordon said the various notices to property owners are sent by certified mail, and the goal is "to get the properties into compliance."

Director Gordon said the inspections cover both the interior and exterior of the home. Inspectors especially pay attention to the areas around windows and door jams where paint dust is likely to be found. They take dust samples around windows and soil samples are taken, especially in areas where bare soil is exposed. Photos are taken of different surfaces in the house. Following the inspection, parents are advised on how to clean – wet mopping and cleaning with wet rags – don't use products like Pledge. Also, they are informed of how to borrow a special High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter vacuum to safely

suck up lead dust. She said tool loan programs sponsored by the City of Cleveland Community Development Department have the machines to loan out.

Case Manager Theresa Davis-Bowling explained a two-bucket method (one of clean water and one with soapy water) of cleaning surfaces such as window sills and door jams to assure you are not spreading lead dust. She said that using a dust removal spray such as Pledge just spreads the dust around and preserves it in oil.

Case Manager Davis-Bowling talked about how referrals of children with Elevated Blood Levels (EBL) come from a state data base that was rolled out in 2015. Investigations are required for children with EBL of 10 mcg/dL or higher, she said.

Case Manager Davis-Bowling said that most children in Cleveland that suffer from lead poisoning have been exposed to lead paint dust. She explained that children get the dust on their hands while playing in soil around the house, on the porch or other areas of a house where there is dust from lead paint. Children then are poisoned when they swallow lead coming from the dust on their hands, she said.

While lead paint was banned in 1978, older homes still have deteriorating lead paint, she noted. Davis-Bowling said lead dust can come from other sources such as toys, make-up, eye liner, remnants of leaded gasoline in the soil, manufacturing plants and painted pottery.

Davis-Bowling described the process she goes through once she receives a referral that a child has lead poisoning. The process begins with an in depth eight-page questionnaire that delves into how a child is doing in school; the family's resources for food; whether the family has health insurance; and an assessment of safety at home

Davis-Bowling said she often finds families in severe crisis where the

continued on page 7



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Friday, April 20, 2018; Third Friday at W. 78th Street Studios, 1300 W. 78th Street: Sculptor Leslie Edwards Humez collaborated with artist Angela Oster to create "Inner Tube Kid." The collaborative effort is part of a Donut Project in which each creation starts with a 3-D plastic donut printed on a Cleveland Public Library 3-D printer.



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In Memory Eric Quentin Stiver

Eric Quentin Stiver, age 34, of Cleveland, passed away April 15, 2018.

Eric started his life on West 20th in Duck Island. He attended Urban Community School and Central Catholic High School, graduating in 1999 from Max Hayes High School in the top 10% of the country academically.

Eric worked as a bouncer at Peabody's and the Agora Night Clubs and went to All State Barber School where he excelled at his dream of becoming a barber.

Eric was passionate about his family and loved them whole-heartedly. He never met a stranger, and enjoyed helping others, cooking and eating and will be remembered for his many acts of kindness.

Eric was the beloved son of Linda Stiver and dear brother of John (Anita) Nutter, Alicia Stiver, Brian Nutter and William White. Devoted uncle of JT (Ashley) Nutter, Alexis Stiver, Kyra Grace, Marcus Burnette (fiancée Nyisha Beaver) Andrew (Jennifer) Stiver and Micey "Mikey" Stiver. Great-uncle of JJ, Marcus Jr.

and Nicholas.

Eric also leaves behind his beloved dog, Karma, and many dear friends.

Eric was preceded in death by his stepfather Harry Mills and grandmother Alice J. Matthews-Lukomski.

Funeral services were held on April 25th, at the CANNON LO-PRESTI and CATAVOLOS FUNERAL HOME 11210 Detroit Ave. Cleveland. For online tributes and condolences please visit www.CL-Cfuneralhome.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STIVER FAMILY

Eric Stiver

COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

federal government. NOBLE is asking people to contact Governor Kasich and tell him to not submit the Medicaid work requirements to the federal government. Let Governor Kasich and the state legislature know you do not support work requirements for Medicaid. You can mail Governor Kasich a letter at: Governor John Kasich, Riffe Center, 30th Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43215-6117 for call him at 664-466-3555.

SENIORS

SENIOR DAY: Thursday, May 24th, Cleveland Public Hall, 500 Lakeside Ave. All seniors are invited to attend this free

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Advice available on how to prevent lead poisoning

Pamphlets and leaflets available in health clinics, libraries, recreation centers, health fairs and Cleveland City Hall provide help to parents or guardians looking for information on how to protect their young children from lead poisoning.

Some of the resources found by

the *Plain Press* at local literature drops are listed below with a summary of the information they provide.

Legal Aid Pamphlet

Lead Poisoning: Know Your Rights, Remedies & Resources published by the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

The pamphlet notes some of the dangers of lead exposure. i.e. living in a home built prior to 1978 when lead paint was banned; exposure to peeling paint and patches of bare dirt.

continued on page 8

LEAD POISONING

continued from page 6

home is not safe or there is no food and dealing with lead poisoning is not the number one priority. She said helping the family deal with pressing issues such as safety and food, makes parents more receptive to dealing with lead poisoning.

Case Worker Davis-Bowling said in cases where a child's EBL is 45mcg/dL or higher, the child will have to be hospitalized for Chelation therapy until the EBL can be lowered. It generally takes 5-7 days. Children may be in the hospital for that long. The hospital may take images of their stomach and colon to determine if items such as rocks have been ingested. Poor nutrition and household with no food, may result in children swallowing things they shouldn't.

Hospitalized children may require state assistance to find a safe place to stay when they emerge from the hospital. Davis-Bowling said of 16 hospital cases in 2015, two were repeat cases. She also said that sometimes the primary residence is not the source of the lead, and secondary residences, schools or day care locations may have to be checked.

Children testing positive for lead poisoning are monitored by the Department of Public Health until they reach age 18 or until they have two consecutive blood tests of 5mcg/dL or less in a six-month period, said Davis Bowling.

Gordon gave some indication of the number of cases referred to the City of Cleveland Department of Health from the State of Ohio. She said 11,000 children were referred to the department in the period from 2003 to 2013 for EBL of 5mcg/dL or higher. In 2016, out of 22,889 local children tested, the State of Ohio referred 1,563 children to the Cleveland Department of Public Health for elevated blood levels. Of those, Gordon said 1,109 had EBL or 5-9 mcg/dL, and 454 had EBL of 10mcg/dL or higher.

The level of remediation is not

keeping up with the number of children being poisoned. In 2017, Director Gordon said 16 properties were issued Letters of Compliance. Most of them participated in the Community Development Departments' Lead Abatement Program, she noted.

With Case Western Reserve students and faculty now testing many students in some Cleveland elementary schools, the number of children being referred is expected to increase. Director Gordon emphasized the importance of getting to children and families to before children are poisoned and educating parents on what they can do to prevent their child from getting lead poisoning. "Getting to children and families before children are poisoned is the only way this truly works," said Gordon.

Gordon urged getting the word out to children and families about simple cleaning techniques and simple things we can do lower the chances that a child will get lead poisoning. She also urged increased testing of children, learning ways to test for lead yourself at home, learning about dietary measures that can be taken to lower a child's risk of absorbing lead, and washing hands and toys frequently.

Committee Chair Blaine Griffin echoed Gordons concern with prevention and education urging all Councilmembers to include information in their newsletters about lead poisoning, how to address it, and preventive measures that can be taken.

Following the presentation by the Department of Public Health, City of Cleveland Director of Community Development Tania Menesse provided information on the role the Community Development Department played in remediating lead in and around Cleveland homes. Her testimony highlighted why it is so difficult and expensive to remediate homes after lead has been discovered in or around the home.

Director Menesse described the department's Lead Based Paint Hazard Control Program. To qualify

for the program, Menesse said both the occupant and the structure must meet eligibility requirements. The application involves income eligibility of tenants, and requirements of landlords. The household must have a child under the age of six or a pregnant mom and the housing structure must be in reasonable shape – needing less than \$20,000 in work.

Menesse said the average cost to abate a unit is \$10,250 and the program caps the abatement amount at \$10,372. She said if the total cost exceeds that amount, landlords are asked to contribute. Menesse said it can be a challenge to get all the information required by the application. She said families often need assistance to get birth certificates required by the application.

Once the application is completed a meeting is held with the family to give them instructions on how to cover up items to prepare the house for remediation. Menesse said several community partners help with the program including Community Housing Solutions that provides HEPA Vacuums; Environmental Health Watch that helps with risk assessment, inspections and family education; and Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry that helps with health education.

Menesse said the Federal Housing and Urban Development grant used for lead abatement requires that all the violations on a house be addressed as well as the lead problems and that the abatement last for 20 years. This often means putting vinyl siding on houses and replacing windows.

Menesse pointed out a recent house that needed a new porch that was expensive to replace. She said the cost often runs way over the amount allocated by the program. Sometimes other Community Development Block Grant funds are used to make the house safe for occupancy.

Councilman Anthony Brancatelli noted that "rehabbing is incredibly hard to do in an occupied dwelling."

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ADVICE TO PREVENT LEAD POISONING

continued from page 7

The pamphlet also provides phone numbers to get your child tested and notes that testing of your child for lead poisoning with your doctor is free for Medicaid patients. Numbers to arrange testing of your home are also provided: Ohio Department of Health at 877-532-3723 or Cleveland residents can call 216-664-2175 for testing of their home for lead dust.

The pamphlet provides information on how tenants can put their rent in escrow while requesting their landlord make repairs necessary to help avoid exposure to lead dust.

The pamphlet also advises homeowners of assistance programs, available through city public health authorities, that assist with making a home lead safe. It also notes that federal law requires disclosure of any known lead hazard at the time of sale.

The pamphlet notes that lead poisoning "may have long term effects including attention difficulties, behavior problems or learning challenges." It emphasizes that a nutritional diet may help children to avoid these consequences of lead exposure and provides an online resource for more information at: www.epa.gov/lead.

Under the heading, Early Intervention, the pamphlet notes that children under age three that have been exposed to lead may qualify for early intervention from Help Me Grow. The program can be reached at 800-755-4769.

The pamphlet also advises parents or guardians how they can get Special Education services for a child that has been lead poisoned. Another section of the pamphlet deals with how to file a personal injury suit if your child has been lead poisoned.

Public Health

The Cleveland Department of Public Health has several one page documents that can be found in various locations in the neighborhood.

Nutrition and Lead Poisoning, issued by the Lead Safe Living Healthy Homes Program of the Cleveland Department of Public Health, is one such pamphlet. It notes that, "A healthy diet and regular meals will help protect children from absorbing lead." It goes on to list categories of nutrients that will help your child to be less likely to absorb lead and some of the foods you can eat to get those nutrients. The nutrients listed are: calcium, Vitamin C and Iron. For more information, you can call the Department of Public Health at 664-5323.

Lead Safe Cleaning Tips, issued by the Lead Safe Living Healthy Homes Program of the Cleveland Department of Public Health, offers cleaning tips. The leaflet advises, "To help get rid of lead, you should use special cleaning methods. Sweeping or using a regular vacuum can spread lead dust." The leaflet outlines the supplies you will need and gives directions on how to safely clean floors, windows and woodwork.

The Cleveland Department of Public Health also reprinted a one page document from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that is titled *Prevention Tips*. The leaflet warns that children under age six and pregnant women should not be living in a house built before 1978 that is undergoing renovation. It talks about how to create barriers between your child and lead sources; advises regular washing of hands and toys; urges regular wet mopping of floors and wet-wiping of window components; and calls on parents to prevent children from playing in bare soil, urging the use of sandboxes.

A leaflet circulated by Environ-

mental Health Watch and the now closed Cleveland Tenants Organization is titled *Protect Children from Lead in Soil*. The pamphlet notes that "lead is in the soil around most homes in Cleveland." It notes that lead in soil can poison young children, saying, "soil gets on children's hands and toys. When children put their fingers and toys in their mouths, they eat lead."

The leaflet urges covering bare soil to protect children from lead; giving children a safe place to play outside such as a sand box; and to stop dirt at the door by using a rug that is washed often and taking shoes off at the door. The flier urges vacuuming of carpets and washing of floors weekly. The flier also calls for frequent washing of hands, toys, bottles and pacifiers. It also calls for testing of children for lead poisoning. Environmental Health Watch can be reached at 216-961-4646.

In addition to the leaflets described above the Cleveland Department of Public Health has published a list of imported products that contain lead.

The department also has two booklets it has published as part of its Lead Safe Living project. The booklets are titled: *Lead and Pregnancy – Protect yourself and your baby*; and *Lead Can Harm Children – Keep your child safe*.

The Department of Public Health also has another booklet it is working on and sent a pre-publication copy to the *Plain Press* titled: *Children's Lead Levels – A guide for parents*. To obtain more information about lead poisoning or to obtain copies of some of the publications described in this article, contact Case Manager Theresa Davis-Bowling of the Cleveland Department of Public Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 216-420-7685 or email her at: tdavis-bowling@city.cleveland.oh.us.

THE LITTERBUGZ

continued from page one

volunteers at Trent Park, on Trent Avenue between W. 41st and Fulton, asked "How would you feel if Cleveland was the cleanest city in the United States?"

Schlekle urged volunteers to mark their calendars for next year's clean-up on April 20, 2019. Schlekle said if each one of us brings 2 or 3 people we would be able to clean-up all the litter in Cleveland in one day.

Schlekle estimated it would take about 3,000 volunteers to clean-up all the neighborhoods in Cuyahoga County in one day. Schlekle said the estimate is for groups of 5 people cleaning a five-block area.

The volunteers at Trent Park gathered over 30 bags of trash during the roughly, three-hour clean up – roaming the streets around the park to pick up trash.

One of the crews at the Trent Park location consisted of police officers from the Second District Community Service Unit. Volunteers from the Cleveland Police Foundation also were there to help with the clean-up.

Mel Reyes, a volunteer from the Cleveland Police Foundation, reached out to area businesses to secure donations of food and drinks for The Litterbugz volunteers helping with the clean-up. Joe De's Pizzeria on Fulton donated about 20 pizzas for the clean-up crews. The Family Market at W. 38th and Newark donated snacks and beverages, and Q's Gas & Go at W. 44th and Clark donated soft drinks.

Each Litterbugz volunteer received a "I HATE TRASH" t-shirt. They were also equipped with rubber gloves and trash bags before being sent out in small groups. According to The Litterbugz website, much of the trash collected is recycled with volunteers sorting



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Friday, April 20, 2018; Third Friday at W. 78th Street Studios, 1300 W. 78th Street: *Collective Unconscious 1*, an oil on canvas painting by Gibby. The artist, calls the process he uses to create his paintings Jungian Shadow Surrealism. Gibby begins each creation by tracing shadows of a subject from multiple angles.

trash into aluminum, plastic and non-recyclable trash.

Following the clean-up, Schlekle talked to volunteers about the impact of trash on the environment and on the human psyche. He claimed that a trash free world would be a less aggressive place.

The Litterbugz's website notes that "People can prevent and reverse the effects of litter. Research and studies have proven that litter is the result of individual behavior. People choose to litter and are careless in the handling of waste. Once litter is on the ground, it attracts even more litter. A clean community, by contrast, can discourage littering and improve community appearance and quality of life."

The Litterbugz's Website says the two main reasons people litter are: "inadequate disposal containers and trash cans, and being careless of their surrounding environment." According to the website, The Litterbugz plans to work to increase "recycling awareness" and to urge citizens to "care about the surrounding environment." Litterbugz hopes in the future to be able to provide "trash and cigarette butt disposals, while educating the youth, to try and eliminate the act of littering entirely!"

For more information about Litterbugz visit their website at: www.TheLitterbugz.org or call 440-829-4703. The Litterbugz volunteers and staff are eager to talk to groups

about how they can get involved in tackling trash in Cuyahoga County.

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