

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Monday, May 21, 2018; Cleveland City Council Health and Human Service Committee Meeting, Mercedes Cotner Committee Room, Cleveland City Hall, 601 Lakeside Ave., N.E.: Tazz Mays of the Cleveland Lead Safe Network testifies before the committee.



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City Council Committee hears testimony from community groups on how to eliminate childhood lead poisoning

by Chuck Hoven

At its May 21 meeting, Cleveland City Council's Health and Human Services Committee heard testimony from representatives of three different community groups working to address childhood lead poisoning in Cleveland. The hearing was the second in a series on the issues. Testifying before the committee were representatives from Cleveland Lead Safe Network,

Environmental Health Watch and Concerned Citizens Organized Against Lead (CCOAL).

Last month, the committee heard from administration officials on the status of the city's efforts to address lead poisoning. Committee Chair Blaine Griffin said he hopes to bring organization to the table at the next meeting that fund efforts to address childhood lead poisoning. He also said that his committee would be

looking to learn about best practices in other cities.

After hearing from funders, Griffin said a joint meeting of Cleveland City Council's Health and Human Services as well as the Development, Planning and Sustainability Committees would be held. The committee's goal is to come up with a sustainable, well-funded comprehensive package of legislation based on the input of all parties by the end of the year. Griffin says he understands the "sense of urgency" to address this issue, but also wants to "make sure we get it right."

At the meeting, members of the Cleveland Lead Safe Network made a presentation to the committee.

Tazz Mays began the group's presentation by sharing information on some of the social consequences of lead poisoning. He noted the correlation between lead exposure and the violent crime, low reading scores and to the number of youths in the juvenile justice system. Mays said that Cleveland had twice as many youths in the juvenile justice system as Columbus and noted the number of children with elevated lead levels was 2 to 3 percent in Columbus, while in Cleveland the number of children with elevated lead levels was 14 percent.

Mays also talked about Cleveland Lead Safe Network's support of Cleveland Ordinance 990-17 for passage. The proposed ordinance requires owners of rental properties

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Pilgrim Church offers sanctuary to immigrant facing deportation

by Chuck Hoven

The congregation of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ on West 14th Street in the Tremont neighborhood decided in a uni-



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Tuesday, May 1, 2018; Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ becomes a Sanctuary Church: Eulogio Hernandez Box, a father of four, stands with his children on the steps of Pilgrim Church. The congregation of Pilgrim Church has offered Hernandez Box sanctuary from immigration officials seeking to deport him. Hernandez Box hopes to receive a stay of deportation from the courts so he can remain in the United States with his family.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA SHEA

Saturday, May 19, 2018; Tremont Gardeners' and Friends of Lincoln Park's joint flower, herb, vegetable and garden sale, Lincoln Park, W. 14th and Kenilworth: Gabi Andrada examines some herbs. Andrada and Marc Gelpi purchased some sage and lavender to plant in their raised bed garden at their Tremont home.

Hispanic Alliance launches Welcome Hub

Hispanic Alliance announced the creation of a new Welcome Hub that will provide bilingual resources and guidance to the area's Latino population and services such as affordable housing, jobs and schools.

The May 3 launching of the Welcome Hub took place at the Hispanic Alliance office located on the ground floor of the bank building at West 25th Street and Clark Avenue. Welcome Hub, funded with a \$7,500 grant from PNC Bank, will be initially housed in the Hispanic Alliance office.

Maggie Rivera, Vice President of Community Consultant with PNC Bank, said discussions between Hispanic Alliance and PNC Bank began over a year ago as a way to address the increased migration of people from Puerto Rico resulting from the financial crisis being experienced on the island. The need has increased dramatically as the result of the devastation caused by hurricanes Irma and Maria. Rivera said that the Welcome Hub is a response to the increased need to provide new arrivals in Cleveland with housing, jobs, daycare and

educational services.

"In the seven months since Hurricane Maria caused significant damage to Puerto Rico, Northeast Ohio has seen an influx of at least 1,200 new residents," Hispanic Alliance Executive Director Juan Molina Crespo says. "While they came from an American territory, they still need help finding the basics, such as jobs, services and schools. The Welcome Hub will make their transition easier."

Formed in 2008 to create a unified voice on leadership development, voter registration, civic engagement and community mobilization on issues that affect the local Latino community, Molina Crespo says the mission of the organization has expanded as residents have come to the center for help with essential services. In fact, 75 percent of all the requests the organization receives is for help finding affordable housing. The next highest request is for help with employment.

In announcing the new Welcome Hub, Executive Director Juan Molina

continued on page

mous vote to make their church a sanctuary, allowing the church to protect a guest from being deported by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

Eulogio Hernandez Box, a father of four from Central Ohio, is the first person to be provided sanctuary in the church. Pilgrim Church Pastor,

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, May 3, 2018; Hispanic Alliance launches Welcome Hub, Hispanic Alliance, 3110 W. 25th Street: (Front row – seated) Hispanic Alliance Executive Director Juan Molina Crespo (Rear L-R): PNC Bank AVP Branch Manager David Rice, Hispanic Alliance Community Engagement Coordinator Sonia Monroy Matis, Hispanic Alliance Leadership Development Initiative Program Manager Edwardo Rodriguez, PNC Bank VP Community Consultant Maggie Rivera, and Esperanza Executive Director Victor Ruiz.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA SHEA

Saturday, May 19, 2018; Stockyard Bike-A-Thon, Clark School, 5550 Clark Avenue: Aliyah Munoz, age 5, got to spend some time with K-9 Officer Doug Nichols and six-year-old Hugo. Hugo, a narcotic-certified K-9 is a German Shepherd mix from the Czech Republic and according to Officer Nichols "likes to eat bees."

ARTS/THEATRE/FILM

LAND STUDIO ART IN THE PARK: Herman Park: Wednesdays June 6 through June 27 from 1-2 p.m. Dudley Triangle (W. 73 & Elton) Thursdays June 14 & June 28th from 1-2 p.m.

CUDELL FINE ARTS CRAFT CARNIVAL: Thursday, June 14 Noon – 3 p.m. A festivity of games and prizes to kick off summer and present the summer schedule of programs.

CUYAHOGA ARTS AND CULTURE's deadline for the first step in its application process is June 21. A free workshop will be held on Friday, June 8th from 10-11 a.m. at Foluke Cultural Arts, 2234 E. 55th. For information on how to register for the workshop contact India Pierre-Ingram at ipierreingram@cacgrants.org or call 216-515-8303 x107.

CUDELL FINE ARTS BUG FEST: Thursday, June 28, 2-5 p.m. A celebration of insects and their relatives. Annual event designed for children of all ages. Display of student art with an insect theme, face painting, music, and snow cones, candy and prizes for participants.

CLEVELAND SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL: Free outdoor theatre performance of Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida on June 29th at Lincoln Park. Show starts at 7 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on.

BENEFITS

FOOD ASSISTANCE is just a phone call away. Call 216-738-7239 or visit GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org. Text FOOD to 63566 for information about Food Stamps (SNAP) applications, food pantries, free produce and hot meals. Income guidelines for SNAP: Gross monthly household income less than \$1,207 for one person; less than 1,760 for two people; less than \$2,213 for three people; less than \$2,665 for four people; and add 4453 for each additional person beyond four people. (Note: limits are higher for those age 60 or older or disabled).

MEDICARE: If you're one of the many Americans who have difficulty paying for health care costs, there may be ways you can **save money on your Medicare premiums and other costs** even if you don't qualify for Medicaid. Medicare has four programs that may be able to help you with healthcare costs: Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) Program; Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) Program; Qualifying Individual (QI) Program; and Qualified Disabled and Working Individuals (QDWI) Program. To see if you are qualified for one of these programs call the State of

Ohio Healthcare Assistance Program at 1-800-686-1578; TTY: 1-614-644-3745, www.insurance.ohio.gov, or visit Medicare.gov for more information.

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 CLUB

FOR THE LOVE OF CLEVELAND: Join the discussion at the first City Club Forum's For the Love of Cleveland: The Power of Place series, a FREE conversation in Public Square on how to ensure our urban streets and sidewalks are safe for all, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation. Tuesday, June 5th from Noon to 1:30 p.m. Panelists: Calley Mersmann, Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, Cleveland City Planning Commission; Organizer, Open Streets Cleveland; and Krista Nightengale, Managing Director, The Better Block. This conversation will be moderated by Rick Jackson, ideastream® senior host/producer. A second discussion will take place on June 12th at the same time and place titled *Balancing Form and Function* – on development in Cleveland.

CMSD FACILITIES PLAN

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT will host neighborhood meetings to update residents on future plans for school facilities in their neighborhood. All meetings will begin at 6 p.m.

DETROIT SHOREWAY/EDGEWATER/ CUDELL neighborhoods: Tuesday, June 5th, at 6 p.m. at Gallagher School, 6601 Franklin Blvd: CMSD Master Facility Plan update for Joseph Gallagher and Marion Seltzer schools.

OHIO CITY/TREMONT neighborhoods: Tuesday, June 19th at 6 p.m. at Tremont Montessori, 2409 W. 10th. Discuss Master Facility Plan updates for Tremont Montessori.

CLARK FULTON/STOCKYARD neighborhoods: Thursday, June 21 at 6 p.m. at Lincoln West High School, 3202 W. 30th Street. Discuss Master Facilities Plan updates for Clark School, Lincoln West School of Global Studies, and Lincoln West School of Science and Health.



The Community Board

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

KAMMS/BELLAIRE-PURITAS neighborhoods:

Monday, June 25th at 6 p.m. at Douglas MacArthur Girls' Leadership Academy, 4401 Valleyside Road, Discuss Master Plan updates for Valleyview Boys' Leadership Academy and Douglas MacArthur Girls' Leadership Academy.

BROOKLYN CENTRE NEIGHBORHOOD:

Thursday June 28, at 6 p.m. at Denison School, 3799 W. 33rd Street. Discuss Master Facilities Plan updates for Denison School.

COMMUNITY

RECESS CLEVELAND: Grill. Play. Chill. Free BBQ, fun and games at 7805 Madison Avenue every Tuesday from June 5th to August 7th from 4:30 -7:30 p.m. weather permitting. Music, games, food and activities for all ages. Neighbors are invited to bring food and snacks to share. For more info: recessdetroitshorway.com.

EDGEWATER LIVE: Every Thursday from 4:30-9 PM until August 2nd. Free concert with lineup of live music, food trucks, volleyball and entertainment at Edgewater Beach.

GORDON SQUARE PRESENTS: Friday, June 8, 5-8 p.m. on the Plaza of Near West Theatre, 6702 Detroit Ave. Free outdoor performance.

IOBY CLEVELAND: Have a crowdfunding idea? Join Indigo Bishop of IOBY Cleveland at The Hive, 6815 Euclid, Friday, June 8th, 4-6 p.m.

ST COLMAN DAY OF MUSIC: Saturday, June 9, noon to 8 p.m. Part of 100th anniversary celebration of St. Colman Church, 2027 W. 65th Street. Enjoy food and indoor and outdoor performances from classical, to Latin to rock at the Church and Parish Hall.

LA PLACITA: A Latino themed open-air market, Saturday, June 9, 1-10 p.m. in the Hispanic Business Center Parking Lot on Clark Avenue at W. 25th. Live entertainment, food, art & vendors.

FEDERATION OF NEWTORK MINISTRIES DAY OF RECLAMATION: June 9th, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Featuring Men's Empowerment summit and Community Art Festival on the Campus of Holy Trinity Church & Cultural Arts Center, 7209 Woodland. Distribution of free shoes, free food, health & wellness fair, games, art exhibit & market place. Free pancake breakfast 8-11 a.m.; puppet show with free popcorn 4:5-45 p.m.

CLIFTON ARTS AND MUSICFEST: Saturday, June 16, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Clifton Boulevard.

LA SAGRADA FAMILIA LATIN AMERICAN FESTIVAL: Saturday, June 16, Noon to 11 p.m. and Sunday June 17, 2 p.m. -10:30 p.m. Live musical performances, Latin American cuisine, games, carnival rides & more.

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. Monday June 18th, 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.

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,

bags to reusable shopping bags, and switching from single-use water bottles to reusable water bottles. To get involved & join the conversation visit Sustainable Cleveland on Facebook: @Sustainable-Cleveland; on Twitter: @sustainableCLE or at: dontbreakthelake.org.

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: westsidecreationcare@gmail.com.

FOOD PANTRY

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

PRINCE OF PEACE OUTREACH AND DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES, 4800 Denison: Food Pantry on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-4 p.m.

SAGRADA FAMILIA CHURCH, 7719 Detroit Avenue: Food Pantry, Third Thursday, from 9-11 a.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST MOUNT MORIAH, 9807 Cudell Avenue, Food Pantry, 3rd Saturday, 11 a.m. -1 p.m.

SIMPSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 8519 Clark Avenue: Food Pantry, Last Wednesday of the month, 9 a.m. – Noon.

FOOD SERVICE

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE LUNCHES: The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) joins with the Cleveland Food Bank to provide lunches to students age 18 and under from June 4th to August 10th from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the following area schools: Joseph Gallagher, 6601 Franklin Blvd; Luis Munoz Marin, 1701 Castle Ave; Paul Dunbar, 2159 W. 29th; Thomas Jefferson, 3145 W. 46th; Walton, 3409 Walton Avenue; and Charles Mooney, 3213 Montclair Avenue.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE DINNER: The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) joins with the Cleveland Food Bank to provide dinner to students age 18 and under from June 4th to August 10th from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Clark School, 5550 Clark Avenue.

HEALTH & SAFETY

DETROIT SHOREWAY SAFETY WALKS: Exercise, meet your neighbors, pick up litter (bring a trash bag), talk to people in the community, report burned out street lights and more. All residents, friends, family and pets are welcome. Meeting dates & times: Thursdays June 7 and June 19 at 7 a.m. at Lorain Branch Library, 8216 Lorain Avenue.

LEAD SAFE LIVING – HEALTHY HOMES: Lead poisoning can harm your child. Lead poisoning can cause behavior and learning problems. By the time you notice, it may be too late. Get your child tested for lead. Protect kids – protect your investment. Resources available for eligible families: Free home lead inspection; free repair or removal of lead paint in your home; and free health related repair work. Call Lead Coordinator Ms. Gibson of the Department of Community Development Lead Hazard Repair Grant Program at Community Housing Solutions for your application appointment today at 216-651-0077.

IMMUNIZATIONS FOR CHILDREN: Get immunizations at McCafferty Health Center, 4242 Lorain Avenue, at no cost to you. Times: Every Monday from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.; 1st, 2nd and fourth Wednesday **continued on page 7**

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On behalf of a grateful Nation: Riverside Cemetery and Walter Martens and Sons Funeral Home celebrate their fifth annual Memorial Day Ceremony

by Victoria Shea

The American Flag that draped the 2015 casket of Private First Class Clarence A. Nolan, Jr. of the United States Army, was silhouetted against a beautiful blue sky at Riverside Cemetery, as the fifth annual *Honoring Those Who Protected Our Freedom* Memorial Day Ceremony took place.

Started in 2014, the annual Memorial Day Ceremony allows the staff of Walter Martens & Sons Funeral Home to partner with Riverside Cemetery to hold the service. Licensed funeral director Walter Martens, Jr. said that the funeral home's office manager, Victoria Shea, started it.

"Victoria had started the program after she heard about her cousin who was scheduled to go overseas with the Army," Martens said. "When she approached me about it, she said that the idea came from her wondering what her family would do if something happened to him."

With Martens blessing, she then reached out to Riverside Cemetery. The general manager of the cemetery, Greg Kapcar, readily agreed. Former general manager and board member William Halley said the staff of Walter Martens & Sons had brought back the tradition of the Memorial Day service—which the cemetery hadn't seen in almost fifty years.

The first service, Martens said, was based on the funeral home's Tree of Remembrance ceremony held every year during the holidays. Since then, the Memorial Day ceremony has become very much its own program.

"Every year we try something different until we find something that works. Our first year, the American flag was raised at the front of the cemetery, and then a procession was held to the William Halley Chapel where we read the names of the veterans we had held services for," Martens said. "Now, everything is held outside by the flagpole, which allows everyone to enjoy the beautiful landscape of the cemetery."

Martens said that the Memorial Day ceremony is also a way to have different communities of people

interact with each other. For this year's service, ministers included the Rev. John Manning, the former pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church on Lorain Avenue; Sister Margaret Taylor, Mother Superior and Congregational Leader for the Sisters of the Incarnate Word; the Rev. James Beight, pastor of the Abram Creek Baptist Church and former pastor of Madison Avenue Baptist Church; and the Rev. David Shinault, an associate of the Bethel Free Will Baptist Church on Fulton Road. Other groups who participated in the service included members of the Bishop O'Reilly General Assembly of Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus.

"We always tried to model our ceremony after the patriotism of the Fourth Degree Knights," Martens said. "So once they started participating in the ceremony, it made it even more special. We thank them for their continued participation."

The ceremony itself is broken into several different parts. The first part of the ceremony deals with the American Flag. With a color guard, made up of family members and employees of Martens' staff, the flag is presented and raised to half-staff on the flagpole. For the last three years, the flag used has been the one that was presented to the wife of Clarence A. Nolan, Jr., the grandfather and father of most of the Martens Funeral Home office staff.

"It's a great honor that on Memorial Day the funeral home chooses to use the flag that draped my father's casket," Pat Shea, the daughter of Mr. Nolan said. "It helps make it feel like my dad is there with us."

Following that, Martens said, is the reading of the folds of the American Flag, generally by the staff of Riverside Cemetery. "Many people don't realize that for each fold, there is a meaning and purpose for it," Martens said.

The next part of the ceremony deals with the symbols used to help remember the fallen. This year's service included both a wreath as well as a Battlefield Cross.

As quoted in the ceremony program, "the latest version of the Battlefield Cross: rifle, helmet, boots

and dog tags, have become the universal military symbol of loss, mourning and closure for those left behind."

The last part of the ceremony, Martens said, deals with those that are being honored.

"The last part of the ceremony is always the hardest part. It's when the girls in the office stand before everyone and read out into an eerie silence, the names of the men and women of the Armed Forces we've serviced in past years," Martens said. "It's when everyone there realizes that we're all there for the same exact reason."

At this year's ceremony, 581 names were read. Martens said it was the most substantial amount of names read in the last five years. "The girls in the office read off all the names that have appeared in every single program since we've started," said Martens. "In addition to the names, the ranks at the time of discharge were also read if they were known."

Following the reading of necrology, *Taps* is played. In years past, they were played by Trevor Halley, the grandson of William Halley. Since 2016, when the cemetery dedicated the Stadler Memorial Carillon, named in honor of the late Beverly Jane Stadler Harris, they have been played via the carillon.

"It's hard not to tear up at the sound of *Taps*," Martens said. "It is, as the program says, singularly beautiful."

To close the program, licensed funeral director Joe Mosinski did his rendition of "I Am The Nation." The reading is an emotional one that reminds all present the reasons why



PHOTO BY VICTORIA SHEA

Saturday, May 19, 2018; Cleveland Area Soap Box Derby Track, just North of the West Shoreway near W. 49th Street: The Local Championship Races took place. The winner of the Stock Division was Andrew Sakeagak. The Super Stock Division winner was Kendyll Carsaro. Andrew and Kendyll will advance to Akron, where they will represent Cleveland. In this photo, a racer prepares for the start of a race.

their loved ones went into the Armed Forces.

Martens says he is pleased every year with the work put in by Victoria and the office staff to ensure that the program takes place. "One of the widow's of a friend of mine, Mary Ann Hartman, came up to me after this year's service and told me what a beautiful service it was and how beautiful the cemetery was as well. It was her first time being there." He

says he hears comments like hers every year.

While the names read at the ceremony are the ones that his firm has serviced, every year they add names of those from the community who have attended the ceremony. Martens encourages all those who wish to contact the funeral home to be added to the mailing list and have their loved ones added to the necrology. All are always welcomed.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, May 5, 2018; Cleveland Public Theatre's presentation of Station Hope, a celebration of hope, a dialogue for change, St. John's Episcopal Church, Church Avenue: Lynette Turner, a member of CMHA Voices belts out a tune. The CMHA voices are a mixed voice choir made up of housing professionals who work in various departments throughout the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority.

LEAD POISONING

continued from page one

built before the lead paint ban of 1978, to hire a certified lead risk assessor. The lead risk assessor would be required to identify hazards, correct the hazards, and

conduct dust wipe clearance test.

Mays said the proposal calls for enlisting Community Development Corporations to maintain lists of rental houses in their service areas that have received lead remediation. He noted some options to help reduce the financial burden on landlords including a property tax credit for rental property owners that have invested in making their properties lead safe.

The proposal, May said, stops lead poisoning at the source and makes sure that rental properties are lead safe before they are rented to families with children.

Diana King, another member of Cleveland Lead Safe Network, shared her personal experience of

having a child in her household with lead poisoning. Having lived in an old apartment building, where both the apartment and the soil around it was found to be contaminated with lead, it was the most likely cause of having a child that was diagnosed with autism.

The last speaker for Cleveland Lead Safe Network, Spencer Wells, said that the group has joined with the Ohio Healthy Homes Network to oppose State of Ohio legislation that would prevent local governments from administering their lead safe programs. Wells spoke of the proposed Cleveland legislation as a way to protect tenants from retaliatory action by landlords. He said that under this legislation, tenants would not have to report landlords when there was a lead poisoning problem as the landlords would be required to have a certification that the rental unit was lead-free before it could be rented.

Ward 12 Councilman Anthony Brancatelli said the city already has laws that hold landlords responsible for chipping and peeling paint.

However, "One of the issues is being able to enforce the law," Brancatelli said.

Wells responded, saying that the advantage of the proposed legislation is that it shifts the burden of obtaining the lead risk assessment and remediation from the city of Cleveland to the landlord. Wells said that should free up resources in the City of Cleveland Building and Housing Department. By doing this, Well said, resources now devoted to testing could be used to make sure the landlords comply with the law.

Brancatelli responded, saying there is not voluntary compliance with current laws and said that there is a challenge to get people into court. He noted that in the city there are 40,000 tax delinquent properties, 5,000 condemned properties and difficulties getting delinquent water bills paid. Brancatelli argued that just passing a law, doesn't mean landlords would voluntarily comply.

Wells suggested that one way to assure compliance would be to go after landlords' pocketbooks with a rent deposit program.

Ward 7 Councilman Basheer Jones called for a sense of urgency in addressing lead poisoning, saying "people get tired of just hearing things are getting worked on." He also shared a family connection to lead poisoning, saying "one of my cousins is in and out of jail because

of lead poisoning. His children are without their father."

Ward 3 Councilman Kerry McCormack noted that the city of Cleveland has stepped up its rental inspections and asked, "How do we marry existing efforts with new efforts to make it happen?"

Wells responded that by putting the burden on the landlord to have the property inspected, city employees wouldn't have to do the inspections. "You say, 'Mr. Landlord, you have to turn in your information that this property is lead safe.'

Brancatelli warned, "The city still has to do enforcement."

McCormack summed up the proposed legislation noting the landlord must prove they have had an inspection, and if the inspection comes back negative, they must do remediation.

"I guarantee we will put fire to it on this side."

--Ward 7 Councilman Basheer Jones

In her testimony, Environmental Health Watch Executive Director Kim Foreman called for a multi-sector sustainable task force that develops solutions and funding to prevent lead poisoning. She said the task force would research what is being done right as well as wrong. Foreman also said that the task force would involve doctors and everyone would help craft solutions.

Foreman described Environmental Health Watch's role as the lead organization in a BUILD Health Challenge grant which funded a pilot program called Engaging the Community in New Approaches to Healthy Housing. She noted data collected during the first phase of the program will now be used in a data-driven effort to create healthier homes in target Cleveland neighborhoods. This effort, Foreman said, includes addressing lead hazards in homes. She stresses that multi-sector collaboration was the way to get the work done. Foreman cited collaborations by the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), renters, landlords, hospital systems, Building and Housing and Public Health departments.

On the neighborhood level, Foreman explained that she partnered with Kris Harsh of Metro West Neighborhood Development and Hispanic Alliance's former employee

Jasmin Santana, who helped with access to residential homes in the Clark Metro, Stockyard and Brooklyn Centre neighborhoods.

Foreman also said that she supports the mandatory inspections called for by Cleveland Lead Safe Network's proposal.

While plenty of funders have come aboard to help address lead poisoning, Foreman said, in the long run, the effort to abate lead can't depend on foundations and government grants. She called for the city of Cleveland to enforce its rental property registry law and said the estimated \$2.3 million raised yearly by rental registration should be used to help rental tenants and landlords to pay for lead abatement. She noted the critical importance of creating a culture of healthy homes, but stressed: "they have to be affordable as well."

Robin Brown of Concerned Citizens Against Lead (CCOAL) talked about educating families about lead for two decades with no funding. She noted her organization's efforts to talk to families about things they can do at home and creating a support system for families of children that have experienced lead poisoning.

Brown noted children that experienced lead poisoning in the 1980s and 1990s are adults today. She offered to provide certified training to Ward 8 Councilman Kevin Conwell's volunteers that go door-to-door in the neighborhood so they can effectively teach residents about the dangers of lead.

She also talked about a program that her daughter created to teach middle school students about the symptoms of lead poisoning. She said the students were able to identify behavioral issues that might be a result of lead poisoning. The students then encouraged their parents to have them and their siblings tested.

Brown said that the cost to care for one child with lead poisoning over a lifetime is \$1 million. She noted an increased incidence of Autism and ADHD as a result of lead poisoning.

Brown called for the creation of an outreach program in the city to educate families about the dangers of lead and how to address them.

Councilman Jones stressed the importance of activists and public officials staying involved in addressing the issue of lead poisoning. Speaking on behalf of the newly elected members of City Council, Jones said, "I guarantee we will put fire to it on this side."



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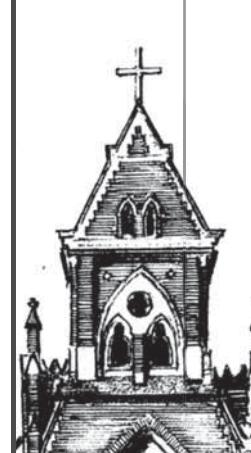
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Sweet Dreams Little Ones: Walter Martens & Sons Funeral Home lay to rest unclaimed infant remains

by Victoria Shea

Under an overcast sky, the staff of Walter Martens & Sons Funeral Home, located on Denison Avenue, laid to rest the cremated remains of six infants whose services the firm had handled but whose remains were never claimed.

The stories behind what happened in regards to why these remains were never claimed, for some, will remain a mystery. One mother, who did step forward, told Walter Martens, Jr., a licensed funeral director at the firm, that she was never aware that her son was never picked up. The mother, who had since remarried, said that when her son, now known as Daniel Raymond, passed away, she was sick in the hospital. Daniel's twin was fighting for her life for almost six weeks. She said that family members, mainly her mother, had handled the services for her son and told her that "everything had been taken care of." The mother said she realized it hadn't been taken care of when she read online the death notice which listed her son's last name and year of birth.

Martens said that when she called the funeral home, all the information she was providing was matching what the funeral home had on record. "She knew the date of birth, that he was a twin, she knew where the birth had taken place," Martens said. "She was confident this was her child."

Staff at the funeral home helped with the preparation of the burial as well. A grave was purchased at Riverside Cemetery on Pearl Road in "Babyland." A personalized casket was provided. Office staff worked together to design a headstone to be placed on the grave in mid-summer. Martens said that the outpouring of support from his staff was touching and an excellent way to celebrate the life of these infants.

"All of the infants that come through here have a family who loves them," Martens said, "and are there when the final disposition

takes place. For these little ones, the funeral home staff was the only 'family' they had left."

However, that never stopped the funeral home staff from attempting to locate the families of the infants. Letters were often sent to addresses left on files. Phone calls were made. But to no avail. "The last attempt," Martens said, "was to run the death notice in the newspaper and hope someone saw it."

An attorney for the funeral home, Donald Ferfolia, also a licensed funeral director himself agreed when the funeral home contacted him about running a notice. Ferfolia said that in a court of law if someone were to take the funeral home to court over the burial that the notice could be used because it was in a mass publication and therefore the funeral home had attempted to locate families.

At a small funeral home service held on Friday night and held mainly for the staff as a way to gain some closure, the mother who came forward told funeral home staff how grateful she was that the death notice had run. She said that she was able to hold him "for the first time" and give him a name, as she never knew it was a son. His sister, an engineer, agreed that it was nice to meet the "brother I always felt I had finally." Both agreed it was nice to have a sense of closure, especially since they would know where he would be.

At the graveside service on Saturday, Pastor James Beight, the former pastor of Madison Avenue Baptist Church on Madison Avenue and West 95th Street, spoke of how "heaven is for the little children" and shared with those in attendance the story of King David. "Before the child died, David was inconsolable, refusing to eat and drink," Beight said. "But after the child died, David washed and dressed, ate and worshiped, shocking the servants. When asked about his behavior, he said 'I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.'"

One mother in attendance thanked the funeral home for holding the service, explaining that she was in attendance because she too had lost an infant many years ago and was unable to attend the services of her child. She said that something kept telling her to attend the service to find some comfort and closure for her loss. Another woman in attendance said she came because she "didn't want them to be buried alone without anyone there who cared." A gentleman from hospice came as well and shared a story about how a patient of his who was near death was seeing her infant daughter who had passed away years before her mother. He explained, that while he didn't understand how or why, it offered hope that these infants would still be with their loved ones.

Martens says that he hopes this will encourage others who may have family members remains at his funeral home to come forward and claim them. "Regardless of whether or not the funeral home is owed money, we are required by law to release the remains to a family. We hope that other families will be able to find closure like Daniel's family did."

The funeral home's office staff agrees and are currently working on compiling a detailed list of the adult remains that have been left at the funeral home. Martens says that with the adults, burying the remains becomes more difficult.

"The law states that for anyone over the age of 18, we have to contact the National Cemetery Administration to see if any of them qualify for burial at a national



PHOTO BY VICTORIA SHEA

Saturday, May 19, 2018; Tremont Gardeners' and Friends of Lincoln Park's joint flower, herb, vegetable and garden sale, Lincoln Park, W. 14th and Kenilworth: Tremont resident Attilio Pacetti, age 2, is enjoying his first visit to the garden sale at Lincoln Park.

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PHOTO BY VICTORIA SHEA

Saturday, May 19, 2018; Stockyard Bike-A-Thon, Clark School, 5550 Clark Avenue: Nefty Morales, age 8, and Diana Cordero, age 5, examine their new bicycle helmets. Sponsors and partners of the Bike-A-Thon provided children under age ten with new bicycle helmets.

HISPANIC ALLIANCE'S WELCOME HUB

continued from page one

Crespo says the Hispanic Alliance is formalizing a "natural progression" by providing "more basic services and literature in Spanish and English on various needs such as medical facilities and public services. The Welcome Hub also has a new computer lab, funded by PNC, that residents can use free of charge to do their research on needs such as schools, jobs, housing and public services."

Molina Crespo says the population arriving in Cleveland from Puerto Rico are more highly educated than past migrants and are looking to "restart their careers." Some new residents often need to find how to update professional certifications or need additional English language classes to transition into local jobs.

He says the jobs are there and believes the needs are for workforce development, training, English classes and resume writing.

Victor Ruiz, Executive Director of Esperanza, a member organization of the Hispanic Alliance, provided an example of how new arrivals from Puerto Rico are preparing to transition into local jobs. Currently working with Cuyahoga Community College, Esperanza is providing English as a Second Language service to 15 medical professionals who are taking classes at Cuyahoga Community College to obtain the local certifications needed to continue their careers in Cleveland.

However, while the transition to employment for the new arrivals is progressing well, finding housing in the neighborhood has proven more difficult.

Poor People's Campaign marches on statehouse in Columbus as part of nationwide campaign

Poor people, clergy and advocates on behalf of the Poor People's Campaign have marched on the Ohio Capital for three consecutive weeks, in a non-violent fashion, to demand that state officials address the needs of the poor in Ohio.

The first Ohio protest, which took place on May 14, approximately 100 participants marched to the offices of the gubernatorial candidates. The purpose was to deliver letters asking that if they were elected, to make it a priority to address the needs of the poor in Ohio.

The second Ohio protest on May 21, which occurred a week after the historic re-ignition of the Poor People's Campaign, highlighted the connection between systemic racism, poverty and voter suppression. Marching with signs that read "Voter Suppression=The True Hacking Of Our Democracy" and "Systemic Racism is Violence," the group called for the immediate restoration of the Voting Rights Act, an end

to racist gerrymandering and the reversal of state laws that prevent municipalities from raising wages.

The third Ohio protest, that took place on May 29, focused on militarism. Protesters carried signs which read "Money for Veterans, not for war" and "Build Schools, Not Walls."

The Ohio protests are among three dozen taking place nationwide and included a national protest that took place at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

The protests mark an emphatic re-ignition of the Poor People's Campaign, which was the 1968 movement started by the late Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. and others to challenge racism, poverty and militarism. Over 40 days, poor and disenfranchised people, moral leaders and advocates engage in nonviolent direct action, including mobilizing voters, knocking on tens of thousands of doors, and holding teach-ins, in addition to other activities.

A Poor People's Campaign Moral Agenda, which was announced last month, is what is to guide the 40 days of action. The Agenda calls for major changes to address systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy and the distorted moral narrative that includes the repeal of the 2017 federal tax law, implementation of federal and state living wage laws, universal single-payer health care and clean water for all.

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is co-organized by *Repairers of the Breach*, a social justice organization founded by the Rev. William J. Barber; the *Kairos Center for Religions, Rights and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary* and hundreds of local and national grassroots groups across the country.

Editor's Note: For information on how to get involved in the Poor People's Campaign, email Larry Bresler at [Organize Ohio](mailto:lbresler@organizeohio.org) at lbresler@organizeohio.org or call him at 216-548-0935.

arrivals, members of Hispanic Alliance estimate that 1,200 to 1,500 new arrivals have arrived since the advent of the financial crisis and the hurricanes. Ruiz says that they are aware of 500 adults that have come to Cleveland. Many are parents with children. The Cleveland Metropolitan School District has reported 600 newly registered students from Puerto Rico, Ruiz said.

The discussion also included the potential cultural, economic and political impact of creating a critical mass of Latino residents on the near West Side and its significance for goals such as the creation of La Villa Hispana.

Editor's Note: For more information on the Welcome Hub, visit www.haiwelcomehub.org. Residents can also send an email to welcomehub@hispanicalliancinc.org

Molina Crespo said there is a critical need for affordable housing in the Clark Fulton neighborhood where Cleveland's Latino community is centered. He said families are very interested in finding affordable housing in neighborhoods of the city where they have proximity to community services, social organizations, churches and extended family.

Molina Crespo called for a model of inclusivity going forward. He said higher income people are looking at the area for housing, and the neighborhoods need them, but not at the cost of exclusivity. He talked about seeing a single mom with three children waiting for a bus to go to a home on the East Side because there was no affordable housing in the neighborhood where

she accesses services. It was emphasized that there is a need to be inclusive of all people living in the neighborhood. "It's got to be about equity and justice. If not, we will be sitting here talking about the same issues." Molina Crespo said about the future of the neighborhood.

Ruiz said the new wave of people arriving in Cleveland from Puerto Rico is being directed by Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) to East Side housing. He said we are at risk of losing people that could be future residents of the neighborhood. "We have to get this housing thing right," Ruiz said. "We are well-intentioned, but not prepared to act quickly to develop a community-based strategy to respond to people in need."

In a discussion about the new

SANCTUARY

continued from page one

Rev. Kelly Burd says that Hernandez Box is currently living in the church while awaiting a stay of deportation so he can return to his family and his parish. Hernandez Box has a private room in the church that is close to a bathroom and shower. Volunteers from the congregation will help provide groceries and laundry services during his stay.

Burd noted that the congregation's predecessors had built Pilgrim Church in the late 1800s to accommodate immigrants in what is today the Tremont neighborhood. She also cited "the current political climate demands churches provide sanctuary," as her decision to become a sanctuary church, stating that the church is in line with "the values and teachings of the gospel."

Speaking via a translator to a crowd gathered for a press conference at the church on May 1, Hernandez Box said he came to the United States from Guatemala 17-years-ago with his wife. He said they decided they couldn't raise their children in Guatemala because of the difficulties there. Hernandez Box's four children are all American citizens. In addition to taking care of his own family, he also assists with taking care of his eight-year-old nephew, whose mother, Hernandez Box's sister, died of cancer. His sister's oldest child, a DACA recipient, is taking care of three additional siblings.

Burd said in previous years, Hernandez Box had been granted a stay of deportation when he regularly reported to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). However,

because of a new executive order issued by the Trump administration, he now fears he would be put into deportation if he reported to immigration. Hernandez Box appealed to the government and the courts "to give me an opportunity in this country," but decided not to report to Immigration and Customs Enforcement because he did not want to be separated from his family. "I do not want them to grow up without their father," he said, speaking of his children. "I'm asking authorities to have mercy on me," said Hernandez Box. "Those of you who are moms and dads understand how difficult it would be to be separated from your children."

Burd noted that Pope Francis had urged compassion for immigrants. She expressed her gratitude that Pilgrim Church was not alone in offering refuge to immigrants facing deportation, as Forest Hill Presbyterian in Cleveland Heights, St. Andrew Episcopal Church in Mentor and First Church of Oberlin, are also providing sanctuary.

Forest Hills' Pastor, Rev. John Lentz talked of the biblical directive to "welcome strangers" and invited to "people of faith" to stand with the sanctuary churches.



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continued from page 2

from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. and from 1-4 p.m.; every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 4-7 p.m. No appointment needed. Walk-ins accepted on first come, first served basis. Bring shot record or letter for school and Medicaid card (if applicable). Vaccinations are available for children who are uninsured, underinsured, or who have Medicaid. For more information call 664-6603 or 664-4120 or visit the Cleveland Health Department website at: www.clevelandhealth.org.

CARRY NARCAN! SAVE A LIFE!: Did you know you can get Narcan (a.k.a. naloxone) in certain pharmacies? Here is how it works: Visit your local pharmacy (Recommendation: Discount Drug Mart, Walgreens or Marcs pharmacies). Tell pharmacist you need to obtain Narcan (a.k.a. naloxone). You don't need a written prescription for Narcan. There are no special requirements for obtaining Narcan. Give the pharmacist your medical insurance information. Narcan is not free in the pharmacy, but your insurance may provide partial or full coverage for the medication.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPENS HERE TOO: For more information visit: HappensHereToo.org or visit the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking at collaborativeinitiative.org. Support is available for Human Trafficking victims at the Project STAR (Sex Trafficking Advocacy and Recovery) Hotline of the Cleveland Rape Crisis at 855-431-STAR (7827); Bellefaire JCB Homeless and Missing Youth Program Hotline at 216-570-8010 or at the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at 888-3737-888.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROJECT DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) 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.

HOUSING

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS: Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) is opening its Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) tenant-based wait list via lottery from June 4 to June 8, 2018. The HCVP provides rental subsidy to low-income families through vouchers that can be utilized with private landlords throughout Cuyahoga County. Persons interested in submitting a pre-application to participate in the lottery can apply online at www.applycuyahogacounty.tenant.com. Local libraries and service agencies will also have computers available to the public to access the pre-application. Elderly or persons with disabilities can receive assistance by calling 1-800-741-9922. Paper or in-person applications will not be accepted. The call center will be active starting June 4 and the pre-application will be available on the website 24 hours a day from June 4 through June 8th. Questions? Visit the website or call the call center at 1-800—741-9922.

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.

PARENTING

CUYAHOGA COUNTY FATHERHOOD CONFERENCE: Registration is now open for the 14th Annual Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Conference on Friday, June 15th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1260 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. You can register on the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative's website at <http://fatherhoodinitiative.cuyahogacounty.us/> (All events are free with registration.) The conference will consist of a Resource Fair, an Opening Plenary Session, a Town Hall Meeting, an Awards Luncheon and Educational workshops. The keynote speaker at the Awards Luncheon will be Dr. Charles Modlin, a world renowned kidney transplant surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic; founder of the Minority's Men's Center and the Minority Men's Health Fair; proud son of a National Senior Games Association record holder in track; and a great

father to his four children. The hours for the conference are from 8:00 am until 4:30 PM. Please call the Fatherhood Initiative office at 216-348-3967 if you have any questions about the conference or if you have any other issues for which we can be of assistance and remember that Fathers Matter!

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT: An Awareness Program for Parents and Other Adults, Monday, June 18, Hispanic UMADAOP Youth Center, 3115 Scranton Road. Interactive exhibit designed to resemble a teenager's bedroom. Snooping and Searching begins at 6 p.m. Presentation begins at 6:30 p.m. Due to the nature of the materials presented, no youth are permitted to attend. The presentation is free. For further information contact Clark-Fulton MyCom Coalition – Hispanic UMADAOP at 216-459-1222.

FATHERHOOD DEVELOPMENT: Free programs: Job readiness & placement programs, financial literacy, healthy parenting, legal assistance, career counseling. Contact Passages Connecting Fathers and Families and New Beginnings for New Fathers at 3631 Perkins, or call 216-881-6776 or visit www.passages-oh.org.

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/birthning and click on the MetroHealth Moms icon.

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

NATIONAL POOR PEOPLES' CAMPAIGN: A national call for moral revival held each Monday until June 18th in Columbus, Ohio: non-violent direct action training at 11 a.m.; public rally outside the Statehouse at 2 p.m.; and Direct Action Civil Disobedience at 3 p.m. Participants can choose not to engage in direct action. The rally at 2 p.m. will not involve any direct action. The Ohio events are part of the national Poor Peoples Campaign. If you are able to provide or need transportation to these Monday events at the Columbus Statehouse, please fill out the form at this link: <https://bit.ly/2G40FcY>.

POOR PEOPLES CAMPAIGN CLEVELAND EVENT: Environmental Devastation, The Right to Healthcare: Friday, June 8 at 7 p.m. at Archwood United Church of Christ, 2800 Archwood Avenue. Hear how environmental pollution and the right to healthcare are part of the fight for social justice. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by West Shore FACT, Cleveland Divestment Project, End Poverty Now, Single Payer Action Network (SPAN) Ohio and others. Refreshments.

GUN SAFETY: On Sunday, June 10, 2018 from 10:15AM until 11:15AM in the St. Malachi Church Hall, Dave Eggert of *Ohioans for Gun Safety* will speak about his organization and its effort to reduce gun violence in Ohio by closing background check loopholes. This forum, which is part talking and part listening, is open to the public and is a critical step toward developing a broadly supported, common sense background check ballot initiative to take to Ohio voters for approval. Consider: Ohio's rate of gun deaths increased 25% in two years; Ohio's gun death rate is now above the national average and getting worse; 20 States have enacted common sense background checks on gun sales -

which make a difference; and Ohio could join them by using the ballot initiative process to bring common sense background checks to Ohio.

PEACE@THEPUB: Move the Money from the Pentagon to the People, Tuesday, June 12, Market Garden Brewery, 1947 W. 25th. The Poor Peoples Campaign and Move the Money Campaign join for a discussion of how to work together to challenge the status quo. For more information contact Peace Action Cleveland at peaceactioncleveland.org or call 216-264-3955

PUSHING FOR EQUALITY: TRANSGENDER EQUALITY AND BEYOND: (ACLU Summer Program) June 13, at 5:30 p.m. at ACLU of Ohio, 4506 Chester Avenue. Free parking. Light refreshments. RSVP at ACLUOHIO.ORG/CALENDAR, or by email at rsvp@acluohio.org or call 216-472-2200.

NUISANCE ORDINANCES: WHEN CALLING FOR HELP GETS YOU EVICTED: (ACLU Summer Program) June 25th at 6 p.m. at CSU Law Moot Courtroom, 1801 Euclid Avenue. (CLE/CEU credit available). RSVP at ACLUOHIO.ORG/CALENDAR, or by email at rsvp@acluohio.org or call 216-472-2200.

WARD 14 COMMUNITY MEETING: with Councilwoman Jasmin Santana: Thursday, June 28th from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Family Ministry Center, 3389 Fulton Road.

RETIREMENT PARTY

WEST SIDE COMMUNITY HOUSE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAWN KOLOGRAF is retiring. On Thursday, June 21, from 4-7 p.m. come to West Side Community House, 9300 Lorain Avenue, to celebrate Dawn's years of mission driven work in the community. For more information email: info@WSCH.org or call 771-7297 ext. 326.

VOLUNTEERS

CASA of Cuyahoga County, a program of Child and Family Advocates of Cuyahoga County, needs volunteers to advocate for children who have been neglected and abused. CASAs are everyday citizens who are appointed by the Court to advocate for the safety and well-being of children and represent the children's best interests. CASAs are trained to investigate, facilitate, advocate, and monitor one or two cases at a time to help the Court make the best decision for a safe, caring, and permanent home for children involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Those interested in becoming a CASA, please visit cadvocates.org or call 216.443.3377.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Mobile Pantry at Walz Branch Library , 7910 Detroit Avenue on



PHOTO BY VICTORIA SHEA

Saturday, May 19, 2018; Tremont Gardeners' and Friends of Lincoln Park's joint flower, herb, vegetable and garden sale, Lincoln Park, W. 14th and Kenilworth: Scott Ballachino helps Sandy Schultz collect and transport plants she purchases, loading them in his truck. Schultz, a former Tremont resident and member of Tremont Gardeners, purchased a number of plants for her garden.

4th Friday of the month at 11 a.m. See Mrs. Lefkowitz to volunteer.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS: War Up Cleveland and the Cleveland Public Library are seeking donations of handmade items to help our neighbors in need: hats, scarves, cowls, mittens, cloves, handwarmers, headbands, socks, slippers, sweaters, shawls, blankets, afghans, quilts, stuffed toys, baby clothes, baby booties, and baby blankets. All sizes needed: infants to adults. Drop off completed items, yarn or supplies year-round at any Cleveland Public Library location. Donations of washable yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks are very much appreci-

ated. Busy knitters and crocheters will turn your unwanted yarn into finished objects. All items are distributed to local charities. Join the group at: www.ravelry.com/groups/warm-up-cleveland. For more information contact Outreach and Programming Services at 216-623-2921 or visit: www.cpl.org.

YOUTH

LIT LEAGUE SPECIAL EVENT: Books on the Edge Author Visit: Enjoy fun in the sun at Edgewater Beach and meet Tiffany D. Jackson, world explorer and Young Adult author of *Allegedly* and the newly-released *Monday's Not Coming*. Monday, June 18, 6-8 p.m. at Edgewater Park Beach.

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Neighborhood Leadership Development Program graduate praises program

RECRUITMENT UNDERWAY FOR 2018 CLASS

With recruiting underway for the 2018 Neighborhood Leadership Development Program (NLDP), the program highlighted a past graduate who exemplifies the work that program participants do in the community.

Letitia Lopez is the person on the Near West Side the program chose to highlight this year. Lopez is the Executive Director of The Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center. Her dedication to the work of her organization and her passion for its programs led her to NLDP to enhance her leadership skills.

One such program, directed by Yasin Cuevas, a seven year volunteer, works with young girls ages 13-17. It is a mentoring program that teaches basic life skills, table etiquette, self awareness and self care. They discuss employment skills and conduct mock interviews for the youth while providing field trips geared toward arts and culture to The Cleveland Museum of Art and the Cleveland Botanical Gardens.

Lopez has continued her own personal involvement in the arts as well. She helped to create the first Latino

theatre ensemble and continues to be an active advisory committee member and actor of Teatro Publico de Cleveland.

"NLDP brings people together who are truly committed to their communities. I am very grateful to the program. It has strengthened me as a person which has strengthened me professionally."

--Letitia Lopez

Lopez credits the Neighborhood Leadership Development Program with enhancing both her personal and professional growth. "NLDP brings people together who are truly committed to their communities. I am very grateful to the program. It has strengthened me as a person which has strengthened me professionally."

Every NLDP participant has ongoing access to the services of a Program Coach. NLDP coaches



PHOTO BY VICTORIA SHEA

Saturday, May 19, 2018; Ontario Stone, 1246 River Road: Residents of the Ohio City neighborhood met in May to discuss air quality problems stemming from blowing sand and dirt from the piles of sand and gravel at Ontario Stone.

give advice and support tailored to the needs of the participant.

The 16 sessions are on Saturdays at Trinity Commons at 2230 Euclid. The deadline for applications is August 3, 2018. For additional information and to view the 2018-2019 curriculum and online application, visit www.nldpcleveland.com or call 216-776-6167.

In 2006, the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation, along with former Cleveland Mayor Michael White, established a leadership training program for engaged neighborhood leaders. The Neighborhood Leadership Development Program is a free, 16 session community engagement training program for residents of Cleveland, and its inner ring suburbs, who are

working on projects within the City of Cleveland and who are determined to make a positive impact on their communities.

After the application process, 20 committed individuals are chosen for the program year. NLDP participants and graduates are a diverse group with many interests and are working on a wide variety of issues to improve life in their communities.

Rollin' strong: Max Hayes celebrates another Car Show

by Victoria Shea

For Fred Walz, he was looking at five cars which all would receive A's if they were students sitting in his government and American History class at Max Hayes High School at West 65th Street in Cleveland. But there could only be one winner, so he faced a tough decision.

The Max Hayes High School Annual Car Show, which has been a staple of the community since it started approximately 14-years-ago, was held once again on Saturday, May 19. Body Shop teacher, Greg Boykin said that the students in the Automotive Shop began the car show. The school supported it as a way to get some good publicity.

In years past, the Max Hayes Car Show has included other events. In 2017, the car show was accompanied by a 5K/1 Mile race. Years before that, Boykin said that the show was a riding lawn mower race. "This year's show was a little different because it was student-led," Boykin's said. The students, with a

list in hand of those who entered cars in last year's show, started reaching out by telephone to invite them back. After that, Boykin's said, the sign that was placed in the yard was made. The day of the show, the students were responsible for set-up. For principal, Chris Scarella, he sees the student's participation as a great thing.

Scarella spoke highly of the car show and how it was a great alumni event, which allows the school to do more outreach to their alumni. In years past, alumni such as Timothy Brown from the Class of 2017, have entered cars into the show. For Brown, it was his 1990 Mustang 5.0, which was a former Florida Highway Patrol Chase Car that he found in a barn about 10-years-ago.

A native Clevelander, Brown attended grade school at Almira Elementary, located on Almira Avenue between West 98th and West 99th Streets. He said that he attended Max Hayes because it was the only school around that offered trade

classes. "I wasn't good in a classroom," Brown said happily. "But give me a wrench, and I get an A."

The car show also allowed another local Clevelander, Ralph Vicario, a chance to show off his "brand new car"-a 1930 Ford Deluxe which he had recently "inherited" from a sickly brother-in-law. His car, like all cars at the show, was being judged for things including the body, paint, interior, originality and overall appearance. Despite the weather, which threatens rain for a good part of the day, Vicario was happy to attend, as it was his first car show.

Waltz, a judge for this year's car show said that he was grading the cars as a body shop person. Looking for things like how well the car was painted, and whether repairs made to the car matched, would determine the overall points a car could take.

Preparation will be underway again shortly for the 2019 car show. Those interested in participating should reach out to Greg Boykin at 330-459-0888.

Antique car purchased for the price of a funeral

by Victoria Shea

There's nothing like a car show, and for Ralph Vicario, there's nothing like your first car show, especially when your car happens to be a 1930 Ford Deluxe. Vicario entered the car in the 2018 Max Hayes Car Show.

Vicario's story behind his antique is an unusual one, especially for anyone familiar with antique cars. Vicario shared that the Deluxe actually belonged to his brother-in-law until recently when Vicario "inherited it" when his brother-in-law became sick.

Before his brother-in-law, it was owned by the son of the original owner. Vicario said that the asking price for the car when his brother-in-law originally inquired about purchasing from the original owner was \$26,000. However, when the original owner died, his son offered

to sell the car to Vicario's brother-in-law if he paid for his father's funeral. He paid approximately \$8,500 for it, which covered the expenses of the man's funeral.

Vicario said that so far, the most he has invested in it other than gas, would be the cost of some steel wool to clean up some of the rust.

When asked about the specifics of his car, Vicario said that his is a Deluxe because it has two spare wheels on the car, one on either side. He said there was another model of the car that only featured one spare. According to Vicario, the car is still relatively original right down to its green and yellow paint job and rumble back seat.

Vicario says that the car is a blessing to have, as well as a lot of fun to own.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA SHEA

Saturday, May 19, 2018; Max Hayes High School Car Show, 2211 W. 65th: Cars from all decades line the parking lot of Max Hayes High School for the annual Car Show. Winners of the show are awarded trophies.

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