



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR  
Friday, August 17, 2018; Steelyard Commons, 3255 Steelyard Drive: Cleveland Indians' Pitcher Mike Clevenger meets with fans and signs autographs.

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# Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

## Cudell Improvement and Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization hold a Community Meeting to explain the Strategic Alliance

The third article of a series on the Strategic Alliance by Victoria Shea

Tuesday, July 31 found members of Cudell Improvement and Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization packed into the Brothers Lounge for a Community Meeting regarding the organizations' recent forming of their Strategic Alliance.

Master of Ceremonies that evening was Matt Zone, Ward 15 Councilman. Joining him to speak were members from both organizations as well as Michael Graham from Strategic Design Partners.

"The word of the day is gentrification," said Chris Riemenschneider, co-owner of Brothers Lounge as he introduced the evening. "That's what's happening on this side of town." He also mentioned that the evening was about bringing together the two organizations saying, "We are bringing together Cudell and

Detroit Shoreway...and this is [the] brilliant part of town that has yet to see its potential."

Turning the floor over to Councilman Zone, he acknowledged the turnout of members and those interested in the Strategic Alliance, before giving both boards praise for their abilities to come together to form the Alliance. Zone also reflected on the changes of the neighborhood community developments in the sixteen and a half years he's served as councilman as well as the challenges faced by each Community Development Corporation.

"Crime prevention...crime, pollution, housing issues, policy issues-they don't stop at a ward boundary. They don't stop at a neighborhood boundary," Zone stressed. "They are something that effects all of us and if we can come together as a community to figure out a way to make the community stronger, that's how we really advance the agenda of the work that we do."

Before turning the floor over to Cudell Improvement Board President Dan Berry, Zone stated that the process to form the Alliance began when Zone was made aware

continued on page 4

## Medicaid Works conference examines Medicaid Expansion's first four years

by Chuck Hoven

In an effort to educate the public about Medicaid expansion in Ohio and its benefits, and to convince the next governor of Ohio to continue participation in the program, Governor John Kasich's administration is holding meetings throughout the State to present findings from a recent study showing the benefits of participating in Medicaid Expansion.

On August 22, 2018, Metro-Health Medical Center hosted a conference, called *Medicaid Works: Expansion Four Years Later*, where State of Ohio officials presented findings from a 2018 assessment of the Medicaid Expansion program that started in 2014 as part of the Affordable Care Act.

The study, titled *2018 Ohio Medicaid Group VIII Assessment* compiled by the Ohio Department of Medic-

aid, showed Medicaid Expansion reduced the uninsured rate in Ohio by half; helped individuals to find work or to keep their current jobs; and provided access to treatment for mental illness or substance abuse disorders.

Prior to the Medicaid Expansion in 2014, Medicaid in Ohio was available to certain select populations

continued on page 6



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, August 5, 2018; Puerto Rican Ceremony and Community Fair, Roberto Clemente Park, 3690 Seymour Avenue: Alex Erazo, age 5, uses his creative energy to make art.

## Residents at Community Meeting outraged at Cuyahoga County's appraised values of their homes

by Chuck Hoven

Organizers of a group calling itself Citizens United for Fairness (CUFF) brought Cuyahoga County officials to Franklin Circle Church on August 28<sup>th</sup> to hear residents' concerns about property appraisals many said had increased over their last appraisal by unreasonably high percentages.

Ohio City resident Mary Rose Oakar, one of the organizers of the event, served as Master of Ceremonies, as one person after another brought their concerns before the county officials.

Cuyahoga County Chief Fiscal Officer Dennis Kennedy and Cuyahoga County Director of Appraisals Dan Harbaugh explained the appraisal process and then listened as residents lined up to tell them how unfair the appraisal was on their properties.

Responding to a contention by County officials that most of the complaints were from the suburbs and only a few hundred parcels in

Cleveland were in dispute, Oakar said if you believed that, "you are dead wrong." She noted the filled gym at Franklin Circle and said with more time to organize, a much larger venue would have been needed. Oakar said, "This is a big issue. It is not just a couple hundred here and there."

After a good deal of heated testimony from residents, Oakar asked Fiscal Officer Kennedy to pledge to ask Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish for an extension on the amount of time people have to dispute the proposed value of their homes. She said, "You will see a revolution if you don't do something about this."

Oakar also asked that meetings to allow residents to dispute their property valuations be held in the neighborhoods rather than just at Cuyahoga Community College campuses. Kennedy promised to bring both of these requests to Cuyahoga

continued on page 5



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, July 31, 2018; Community Meeting to discuss Strategic Alliance between Cudell Improvement Inc. and Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, Brothers Lounge, 11609 Detroit Avenue: Cudell Improvement Inc. Board President Dan Berry shares information about the Strategic Alliance.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Saturday, August 18, 2018; Cleveland Bazaar at Market Square Park, W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue: Pedestrians stroll past the booths of artists and craftspeople.



## Sister Corita’s Third Annual Golf Outing raises over \$29,000 for St. Augustine Hunger Center

Sister Corita’s third annual golf outing at Ridge Top Golf Club in Medina raised over \$29,000 and over 450 donated items for the food pantry in the St. Augustine Hunger Center on W. 14<sup>th</sup> in the Tremont neighborhood. This brings the three year total to over \$59,135.

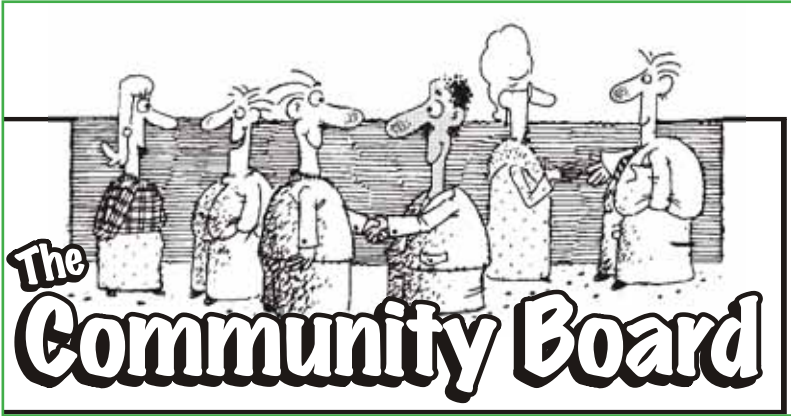
This year’s golf outing was sponsored by three title sponsors: Lakeside Financial Partners, AXA Advisors and Catholic Charities Corporation.

The golf outing was started in 2016 to offer an enjoyable day of golf that would also benefit some of Cleveland’s most needy. Participants at the golf outing enjoyed golfing, lunch, dinner, raffles and prizes.

“I am so humbled by the gener-

osity of our communities to help support the hunger center especially in the summer months when donations of food and money are typically down,” said Sister Corita Ambro, director of St. Augustine’s Hunger Center. “Thank you to all that donated and supported this fundraiser.”

The hunger center provides more than 250,000 meals a year throughout seven counties in northeast Ohio. All the proceeds from the golf outing go directly to St. Augustine’s Hunger Center. For those interested in supporting the St. Augustine Hunger Center that are unable to attend the golf outing, donations can be made at: [www.staugustine-west14.org/contactus.php](http://www.staugustine-west14.org/contactus.php)



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

### ARTS

**CLEVELAND DRUM CIRCLE:** Sundays at 3 p.m. at Edgewater Park  
**TREMONT ARTS FESTIVAL:** Saturday and Sunday September 15 and 16 in Lincoln Park. Admission is free.

**CITY STAGE:** Gili Yalo at the Cleveland Museum of Art, Nord Family Greenway, 11150 East Blvd. on September 7:30 -9 p.m. Tel Aviv-based Gili Yalo combines Ethiopian roots music with a modern touch of jazz and soul.

**OHIO CITY STREET FESTIVAL:** Sunday, September 23 from Noon to 8 p.m. on W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street in Ohio City. Music, arts, kids zone, family friendly fun, arts performances, interactive games, activities, crafts & more. Free and open to all. For more information visit: [ohiocity.org/OHCStreetFest](http://ohiocity.org/OHCStreetFest).

### BENEFITS

**#HELPINTHECLE** is a digital version of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless’s Street Cared to assist those experiencing homelessness to reach services.

**INTERPRETER AND TRANSLATION SERVICES:** Cuyahoga County offers interpreter and translator services for residents to access county services. The county has contracted with US Together to provide these services. County offices can contact the service when they need

an interpreter for any language including American Sign Language.

### CITY OF CLEVELAND

**CLEVELAND CARE CALLS** is available for Cleveland Senior Citizens age 60 or older or adults 18-59 with a disability. Automated telephone reassurance system. Individuals receive a call on the days they request, Monday thru Friday from 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. to check on their well-being. If the system is unable to reach you, additional calls will be made in a 30 minute period. If unsuccessful your designated contact person will be called. If unsuccessful in reaching the contact person, the Department of Public Safety may be asked to check on your wellbeing. For an application to the program contact Cleveland Care calls Project Director at 216-664-6316.

**FREE EMERGENCY ALERTS FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD:** Keep informed about emergency situations in your neighborhood with this Code RED service. To sign up visit [www.city.cleveland.oh.us](http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us).

### COMMUNITY

**CLEVELAND COMMUNITY POLICE COMMISSION** will meet on September 25 at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 1355 W. 70<sup>th</sup> Street. For more information visit [clepcp.org](http://clepcp.org).



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH

August 20, 2018; St. Augustine Parish: Members of the St Augustine Golf Committee present a check to St. Augustine Pastor Fr. Joseph McNulty for the benefit of the St. Augustine Hunger Center. The check for over \$29,000 is from the proceeds of Sister Corita’s Third Annual Golf Outing. (L-R).Bernie and Mary Lou Balchak, Andrea and Richard Slosar, Fr. Joseph McNulty pastor of St Augustine, Dave Dyllyn and Mike Perciado.

**73<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL ONE WORLD DAY:** September 18, 11 a.m.- 6 p.m., Cleveland Cultural Gardens. Come experience new cultures, ethnic food and performances.  
**PEACE@THEPUB:** The State of the Peace Movement: On the Brink. Tuesday, September 11 at 7 p.m. at Market Garden Brewery, 1947 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street.

**THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY AND THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIANS:** Talk by Israeli Jewish historian Ilan Pappé, Wednesday, September 12, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Cleveland State University Student Center, SC 313.

**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. Third Monday of each month, from 6-7:30 pm, at Hispanic Alliance Inc, 3110 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street (at Clark). For info, contact Sonia Monroy Matis, 216-661-4249 or [smatis@hispanicallianceinc.org](mailto:smatis@hispanicallianceinc.org).

### 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](http://www.CuyahogaRecycles.org). Additionally, a printable PDF is available at: [www.cuyahogarecycles.org/pass\\_it\\_on\\_book](http://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](http://www.cuyahogarecycles.org/PublicationRequest.aspx).

### EDUCATION

**BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS:** Are you lacking basic computer skills which are holding you back from getting a job, restricting you at work, or limiting you in life, ....well **Digital C, technology skills building program**, will teach **basic computer** classes for the beginner at the West Side Catholic Center. The three-week program, will be held twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. There is no charge. Child care is provided. All are welcomed. Please call Frank JohaneK at [216-631-4741](tel:216-631-4741) ext. 167 to register and class start dates.

**BRAIN BEE:** Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) invites area students ages 14 thru 18 to test their knowledge of neuroscience in the NEOMED Brain Bee. The Brain Bee will take place Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019, at NEOMED. Free monthly tutoring sessions are available on Saturdays to help students prepare for the Brain Bee. Sessions will occur Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8 at NEOMED. Students

may register at [neomed.edu/brainbee](http://neomed.edu/brainbee). For more information about the Brain Bee, please contact Dr. Peterson at 330.325.6476 or [dpeterson@neomed.edu](mailto:dpeterson@neomed.edu).

### ELECTION 2018

**UPDATE VOTER REGISTRATION:** Election day is Tuesday, November 6. The deadline to register to vote or to update your address is October 9<sup>th</sup>. Ohio now has a convenient online registration site at: [olvr.sos.state.oh.us](http://olvr.sos.state.oh.us)

### EMPLOYMENT

**OHIO BUSINESS AND CAREER EXPO:** Job seekers are invited to explore career opportunities available from more than 50 government agencies, universities, construction firms and apprenticeship programs at the Ohio Business and Career Expo being held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 6 at the Ohio Expo Center’s Cardinal Hall, 717 E. 17th Ave., Columbus. To learn more, visit [das.ohio.gov/ohiobizcareerexpo](http://das.ohio.gov/ohiobizcareerexpo) or contact the Equal Opportunity Division of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services at 614-466-8380. Online registration is available through Aug. 31. Walk-ins are welcome. Admission is free. Parking is \$5.

**LA MEGA CAREER FAIR:** October 4, at Estabrook Recreation Center, 4125 Fulton Road. Connect with local and national employers. Free resume building. Mock interview workshops. Powered by The Centers and El Barrio. El Barrio workshops held from 9 a.m. – Noon. Career Fair from Noon to 2 p.m. If you have a resume, bring it with you. For more information call 216-325-WORK  
**WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER** workforce development classes assist all people in transition from initial assessments to interviews. The four-week program will assist you in identifying your passion, preparing you to re-enter the workforce and get you in front of employers with permanent positions with a career path potential. This is all in a one-on-one environment. With daily attendance and work requirement completed...WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER’S, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM WILL GUARANTEE YOU JOB OFFERS. Classes run from 9:30 AM to 12:00 pm Monday thru Friday and with continuation of training/tutoring Tuesday thru Thursday 1:30 -3:30 pm. Questions, please call Frank JohaneK, Economic Opportunities Manager, 216-631-4741 ext. 167.

### ENVIRONMENT

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TOUR AND DIALOGUE:** September 8 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Metro Health System, 2500 Metro Health Drive. Local tour of toxic sites and renewable energy solutions. Sponsored by The Peoples Climate Movement Rise for Climate, Justice and Jobs. For more information and to sign up visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/706195279726826/?ti=ia>

### FOOD PANTRY

**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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### FREE CLOTHES

**NEEDS CLEVELAND**, 7710 Lorain Avenue, offers free clothing, adult and children’s shoes and household items on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. No appointment necessary. No income or residency requirements. 5 items per person – Limit 30 items per visit. Visit as often as you need.

### HEALTH & SAFETY

**THE PREVENTIVE CARE CENTER** at Metropolitan Campus of Cuyahoga Community College will reopen on September 4<sup>th</sup>. The care center provides low-cost health care services ot uninsured or underinsured adults while giving Tri-C health career students valuable learning and training opportunities. The center will be open 2-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from September 4 through Novembe 15. It is located in Room 105 of the Health Careers and Sciences Buiding at 2900 Community College Ave. For more information visit: [www.tri-c.edu/carecenter](http://www.tri-c.edu/carecenter).

**CLEVELAND SENIOR WALK:** Free two-mile fun walk. Wednesday, September 12, Mall C, Downtown Cleveland. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m.

**ALZHEIMER’S AND CAREGIVER EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE** on Friday, September 21 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at InterContentental Cleveland Hotel, 9801 Carnegie Avenue. The Alzheimer’s Foundation of America’s national Educating America Tour offers this free Alzheimer’s and caregiver educational conference. The conference is open to family and professional caregivers, individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease and the general public. The conference will feature a number of speakers and is designed to help people understand Alzheimer’s disease and improve their quality of life through education and empowerment. For more information or to register, visit: <https://alzfdn.org/event/afa-educating-america-tour-cleveland/>.

continued on page 7



## St. Colman Benefit “Keeping the Doors Open”

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## ADAMHS Board reveals new billboard and social media campaigns

by Victoria Shea

In honor of September being National Recovery Month, on August 27, Craig Dunson, CEO and Executive Director of Lifeworks Behavioral Health Solutions introduced the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County's (ADAMHS) fourteen Recovery Month Billboards that will appear around Cuyahoga County in the next few weeks.

Dunson, who suffers from bipolar disease and depression and who appears on one the billboards regarding his twenty-four year recovery from drugs stated that he participated because "people believe talking about mental health is crazy but it's crazy not to talk about mental health."

Explaining his past, Dunson stated that he was a member of Narcotics Anonymous where the stigma of being a user made anyone attending meetings vulnerable to arrest and that he was proud of his recovery where now instead of being Craig D. he is now Craig Dunson.

The goal, he stated, of the cam-

paigned was to be the voice for those who don't have a voice for themselves.

After the billboards were revealed, ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County Chief Executive Officer Scott Osiecki, announced that the difference between the current campaign versus other campaigns was the fact that the billboards featured actual stories of those recovering from drugs, alcohol and mental health issues.

"We're so proud of the individuals who came forward and told their stories," Osiecki said. "We're very excited about that."

Osiecki also stated that in addition to the billboards, ADAMHS plans to use the billboard designs throughout the rest of the year in the form of posters to be used at their offices as well as at conferences for the rest of 2018.

In addition to the billboard campaign, Madison Scagnetti, Community Relations/Engagement Specialist for ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County and Katie Kurtz, Medical Educator for The MetroHealth System,

Office of Opioid Safety introduced Recovery CLE.

Recovery CLE, a social media campaign that's kickoff was that evening, was created as a way to remember those who have passed from the opioid epidemic, as well as celebrate those who were able to overcome their addictions. As a team, Recovery CLE was created "to celebrate and elevate the faces and voices of the people in recovery" said Kurtz.

The purpose of Recovery CLE is to upload and share what recovery from addiction means to those who have recovery from addiction. "Like Craig said, this is how we bring to embrace and take ownership of that stigma, how we take back the power away from stigma to really create, to break down the walls of the face of recovery in our community," Kurtz added.

Scagnetti stated that to post stories to Recovery CLE on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter, people should use #recoverycle.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Sunday, August 12, 2018; Outdoor liturgy and picnic, St. Patrick's Church grounds, 3602 Bridge Avenue: Back of St. Patrick's church with parishioners attending outdoor mass. St. Patrick's 11 A.M. outdoor mass celebrated by the new pastor, Fr. Michael Gurnick.

## Property tax increases alarm Lincoln Heights Block Club residents - an appeal to Cuyahoga County and City representatives for relief

To the editor:

Letter to Cuyahoga County Council and Cleveland City Council

Dear President Brady, Councilwomen Conwell, Councilman McCormack, Other Distinguished Members of Cuyahoga and Cleveland Councils :

I have spent several days putting together the attached spread sheet of just a very small portion of Tremont.

We are the Lincoln Heights Block Club, our service area is located in the midst of the Scranton Ave. Corridor, running from the Highway I-71 / I-90 to the east, West 25th to the west, Train Ave to the north, and Wade Avenue to the south.

I have concentrated on mostly owner occupied residential properties within the spread sheet. I did not include strictly commercial properties, known rental properties, apartment buildings, mixed use properties, and vacant land. Some addresses could not be reviewed on the County Data base. We reviewed 119 properties within the confines of our block club.

Our Block Club is one of the oldest within Tremont, and has dozens of lifelong, and long term constituents. Our Cleveland City Council representation changed with the last redistricting, prior to that we were located in Ward 14, but our current location is now in Ward 3.

We have been in contact with several news media outlets over the past week, but just finalized our data for review. Over 35% of our owner occupied residential properties are Hispanic families. Many others are either senior citizens, low income, or disabled.

We are part of Tremont, yes. But the demographics are similar to the Metro North Area (Tremont) and the Clark / Fulton Neighborhoods of Ward 14. The Metro North Area has seen either a property evaluation reduction in value or a minimal increase in values averaging only 10%. Our service area, while only a mile north has averaged over a 50% increase.

Many properties have doubled (100%) and dozens have seen increase close to 200% or even larger topping out at over 400%. Only 1 property listed on the spread sheet had a decrease in value and a couple had less than 10% increases.

We had a special gathering last night (August 8<sup>th</sup>), all property own-

ers are very concerned that these property evaluation increases are extreme, out of line, and not in any conformity within the area. These increases if upheld will provide irreparable harm to the property owners, create systemic gentrification, dismantle the diverse fabric of the Scranton Corridor, and force people to end up selling their properties.

### LETTER

Property speculators, land predators, and developers send weekly post cards and letters to property owners in our service area claiming to want to buy our properties. These communications further the paranoia that our elected officials and Cleveland City Planning have plans to force residents out of there long term dwelling units.

Most properties have been in the same hands for generations. The property owners are mostly all working class, or living on small levels of retirements and fixed incomes. It would be a very large burden for the majority of them to follow the new County protocol and have an

appraisal prior to August 31st. to contest the proposed increases.

Many residents are already on Homestead Exemptions, but are having struggles paying existing tax levels, monthly bills, property upkeep, medical expenses, and food. Larger families are significantly struggling to make ends meet.

We are hoping all elected officials can work together to get extensions to the County Protocol, and step in to assist the constituents. One major issue that has come up, with such a

large Spanish speaking population several residents do not understand that their evaluations have gone up 50% or 100% and since Official Notifications are all in English, it is felt that this is quite discriminatory.

We have been in contact and are working with our local CDC, Tremont West Development Corp., and we have asked the Executive Director to request a Board Resolution that would address such large percentage increases in all of Tremont.

Henry P. Senyak  
Chairperson Lincoln Heights Block Club

Editor's Note: The spread sheet which indicates the percentage increases in property values proposed by County Appraisers for houses in the Lincoln Heights Block Club area will be posted on the Plain Press website: [www.plainpress.org](http://www.plainpress.org).

## Sarah JohaneK brings home a gold medal

Near West Side resident Sarah JohaneK's rowing team won a gold medal for the United States of America in the World Rowing Under 23 Championships in Poznan, Poland in late July. JohaneK, a junior at Rutgers University, started rowing

in her freshman year at St. Joseph's Academy in Cleveland. JohaneK was featured in a front page photo in the August issue of the Plain Press. Sarah is the daughter of Linda and Frank JohaneK.

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Join Us  
Sunday, September 9, 2018  
at 10 AM  
for our official Church opening

ADA COMPLIANT





PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Tuesday, July 31, 2018; Community Meeting to discuss Strategic Alliance between Cudell Improvement Inc. and Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, Brothers Lounge, 11609 Detroit Avenue: Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization board member Chris Warren explains how the Strategic Alliance will work.

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

continued from page one

that Cudell Improvement wanted discussions about entering into an alliance with another entity to better themselves.

When Cudell Improvement Board President Dan Berry spoke, he explained that the process started between two and three years ago as the Cudell board realized that their resources were starting to evaporate. In an effort for Cudell to use their money more wisely, they entered into the Shared Services Agreement with Detroit Shoreway which would allow them to achieve their goal.

Detroit Shoreway Board Member, Chris Warren continued, explaining that the groups “probably met twenty times” during the planning for forma-

tion of the Alliance.

“When it started, both groups were involved in their own strategic planning process through our elected boards of trustees,” said Warren. “We were able to arrange some money to obtain Michael Graham and Strategic Design Partners to help us with the process.”

Warren then reaffirmed previous statements about the Alliance being a service agreement between Cudell and Detroit Shoreway for services related to neighborhood safety, housing, etc.

Cudell Improvement Vice President, Brian Jereb spoke, explaining what the month of July had seen with the Alliance since it had taken place on July 1. Jereb said that an incredible amount of work had taken place in the month. One of the big

things that had taken place, Jereb said, was that the boards had been interviewing potential candidates to fill the Economic Development and Marketing position, which according to the Additional FAQs released at the meeting, will be a position that “will work exclusively within the Cudell and Edgewater neighborhoods.” He stated that the other event that has taken place was a walk through of the Cudell orchards, where a clean up process will be started soon.

Jereb also dispelled the rumors that Cudell Improvement’s board has not been “engaged” in the process of the Strategic Alliance and confirmed that the board will be hopefully providing better services to their neighborhoods.

Michael Graham, from Strategic Design Partners then spoke, providing an overview of the Strategic Alliance Planning Process and Contract for Services. During his presentation, Graham touched on important topics that face CDC’s today, including diminishing support and funding for individual CDC’s. He also explained that the alliance between Cudell Improvement and Detroit Shoreway was not uncommon with Cleveland CDC’s, stating that “overall, total CDCs in Cleveland have fallen from over 40 to less than 30,” and that overall, many non-profits over the years have formed mergers or alliances to survive.

When explaining why Cudell and Detroit Shoreway were good organizations to form an alliance, Graham touched on points such as the shared assets; community characteristics and values; borders and markets. He also explained in greater detail the overall process with the forming of the Alliance, even stating that deep conversations included lively dialogue, negotiations and a spirit of partnership.

As Cudell was the one who was looking to enter into an agreement for services with Detroit Shoreway, Graham explained that there were some key points for Cudell which included items like maintaining their identity and physical presence in the neighborhood as well as being able to deliver the best possible services to their residents and constituents.

Lastly, he reviewed the Shared Services Agreement, explaining the key terms of the agreement including: there would be no merger-

-each organization would retain their own boards, membership, financial books and corporate statuses; there would be no exchange of assets or real estate; the service area will be north of I-90, in the Cudell and Edgewater neighborhoods; the length of the term is three years with the ability to terminate in 180 days; and community development services would include housing, community outreach and engagement, economic development and marketing and planning.

Jenny Spencer, the Managing Director of Detroit Shoreway Neighborhood staff and staff of the Shared Services Area spoke, stating that “at the end of the day, this is about service delivery, this is about getting more services out to our three neighborhoods.” Noting that staff is one of the most important parts in providing service, Spencer introduced the staff, whose contact information is provided in the sidebar.

During the staff introductions, those attending were introduced to the different service departments including Housing and Planning and Safety and Community Outreach. For Housing and Planning, the staff spoke about their one and two-family housing rehab program, as well as code enforcement. Safety and Community Outreach explained items they cover including handling graffiti and vandalism, the coordination of block groups, and the work conducted with First District police. Lastly, Spencer and her staff explained the new position of Economic Development and Marketing and what the position would entail.

Before handling questions, Zone clarified that while many in the room had attended dozens of meetings regarding the alliance, he had attended only two, one at the beginning and one at the end, stating that he doesn’t run Detroit Shoreway or Cudell just because he is a councilman and provided funding to the organizations. He explained that he considers himself a partner. He also stressed that at the first meeting, he stated that the “Cudell name is not going away. That the brand, identify, the feel, the presences are gonna remain.”

Zone also explained that 100% of the funds he was getting as

councilman were going to Detroit Shoreway and Cudell but that the funds were being fragmented. He also commented that the “strongest CDCs are the ones willing to change.” He mentioned that during challenging times, Detroit Shoreway has succeeded as an organization because they were willing to take risks while delivering good services. Zone also guaranteed that as long as he remains the councilman for Ward 15, superior service would take place and be given.

The last part of the evening was the question and answer session, which allowed those who attended a chance to voice their opinions, ask questions and clarify answers. Questions and concerns focused on clarifying positions staff would hold, to housing and real estate information, Ward 15 programs, services and the area Cudell would and would not be serving and funding issues just to name a few.

However, it was interesting to note that when the question of who formed the committee from each organization, Berry noted that former Executive Director Anita Brindza was not a part of the Cudell committee. When questioned, Berry clarified himself, stating that Brindza was involved in the first few meetings before Zone took over to acknowledge Brindza’s dedication and service to Cudell Improvement.

“Anita Brindza worked at Cudell for nearly forty years, she gave forty years of her life to that organization and neighborhood,” Zone stated. “so, I just want to publicly thank Anita for her years...” before the crowd drowned him out with applause.

Editor Note: The *Plain Press* has received a copy of the Strategic Alliance power point presentation from that evening that was used by Michael Graham and the staff of the two organizations which, in addition to PDF copies of the initial announcement letter, FAQs, Additional FAQs and Staff Contact Information, will be posted online at plainpress.wordpress.com in the upcoming days. In addition, audio recording of the July 31 Community Meeting will be posted to the website in the near future so those who were unable to attend the meeting can hear it in its entirety.

**Cudell Improvement and Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organizations announce new staff contact information**

With the forming of the Strategic Alliance, staff changes have been made within the Cudell Improvement and Detroit Shoreway organizations. The contacts are listed below.

Please note: Cudell Improvement and Detroit Shoreway still maintain two separate boards. Any questions or concerns regarding board matters should be directed to the appropriate main office for each organization.

**Cudell Improvement**  
9821 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44102    216-228-4383  
Website: [www.cudell.com](http://www.cudell.com)    Board President: Dan Berry

**Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization**  
6516 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44102    216-961-4242  
Website: [www.dscdo.org](http://www.dscdo.org)    Board President: Joe Tegreene

**Contact Information for Shared Services Staff. Updated as of 8/28/18**

Anthony Bango, Director of Housing and Planning  
[abango@dscdo.org](mailto:abango@dscdo.org), [abango@cudell.com](mailto:abango@cudell.com)    216-961-4242 x 207

Christopher Brown, Safety/Community Outreach Coordinator  
[christopher@cudell.com](mailto:christopher@cudell.com)    216-961-4242 x 301

Jenny Spencer, Managing Director  
[jspencer@dscdo.org](mailto:jspencer@dscdo.org)    216-961-4242 x 247

Jessica Trivisonno, Economic Development and Marketing Coordinator  
[jessica@cudell.com](mailto:jessica@cudell.com)    216-961-4242 x 302

Kathy Sargent, Housing Specialist  
[ksargent@dscdo.org](mailto:ksargent@dscdo.org), [ksargent@cudell.com](mailto:ksargent@cudell.com)    216-961-4242 x 223

Linda Giermann, Office Manager Cudell Improvement  
[linda@cudell.com](mailto:linda@cudell.com)    216-228-4383

Matthew Thomas, Housing Development Manager  
[mthomas@dscdo.org](mailto:mthomas@dscdo.org), [mthomas@cudell.com](mailto:mthomas@cudell.com)    216-961-4242 x 224

**Several more notes regarding the list above:** Any and all staff serving the Cudell Edgewater neighborhoods can also be reached by calling the main phone line at Cudell, **216-228-4383**. If the staff member is not immediately available, Linda Giermann will get the message to them.

Jessica Trivisonno’s start date is Tuesday, September 4.

Of the list above: Christopher Brown, Jessica Trivisonno and Linda Giermann will provide services exclusively within the Cudell and Edgewater neighborhoods.

The housing staff (Anthony Bango, Kathy Sargent, Matthew Thomas) as well as Jenny Spencer will provide services across all three neighborhoods – Cudell, Edgewater and Detroit Shoreway.

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PROPERTY TAX APPRAISALS

**continued from page one**  
County Executive Budish on the day following the meeting (Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>).

Fiscal Officer Kennedy said, “Our goal is to get this right. We will listen to anyone who has a concern.” Kennedy said he would bring the requests from Oakar to Budish, but he cautioned that any delay may mean tax bills would be sent out late or would have to be revised at a later date.

Director of the Appraisal Department Dan Harbaugh explained the appraisal process. He said a mass appraisal is done every 3 years. The mass appraisal is based on 3,600 market areas in Cuyahoga County based on areas with similar housing stock, and noticeable and man-made boundaries.

He said that every six years, the county is required to do a reappraisal of individual properties, which is what is a happening now. He said the process takes about a year and a half and involves hiring an additional 40 appraisers. He said three factors are looked at--cost, sales and multiple regression analysis. He said the cost is table driven using Marshall Swift Cost Tables. The sales look at three to five homes comparable to yours for sales prices. The multiple regression analysis looks at the overall housing market seeking a uniform and equitable value.

Residents presented many concerns. One resident said the value of her home increased by 81% from \$100,000 to \$181,000. She called Cuyahoga County to get the comparable houses and the appraiser notes they used to determine her house’s value. She said she found that the appraisers, instead of finding homes similar to hers, increased the number of bedrooms she had from 2 to 3, and justified the increased home value by increasing the square footage listed in her home to match larger homes in the neighborhood.

A man said he moved to the neighborhood from Lorain County and purchased a home that needed a lot of work. He said 25 months ago he had a ruling from the Board of Revision on the tax value. Now, the tax valuation is 85% higher than that ruling. He said he has not had the resources to make many improvements to the property in the meantime. He said if Cuyahoga County wants to buy back his home for the newly appraised value, he would gladly sell it to them and move back to Lorain County.

A woman said her home is identical to a home two doors away with the exception that she doesn’t have a garage. She said the neighbor’s home with a garage was appraised and increased in value to \$71,900 and hers was appraised at \$107,000, a 200% increase from the last appraisal three years ago. The woman said she was retired on fixed income. “Are you trying to push me out of my home? Don’t tell me what you do doesn’t impact taxes I pay.”

A number of people reported believing they had to have an appraisal done to challenge the County’s appraisal. They complained that they are being asked to get an appraisal they can’t afford to fix mistakes made by the county.

One resident said their home increased by 35% in value while a home across the street went up by only 1%. They said that requiring an appraisal they couldn’t afford, tied their hands in challenging the proposed value of their home.

Director of Appraisals Dan Harbaugh said the five types of items listed in the Proposed Value Notice that residents received, that included an appraisal, were not the only evidence residents could present to make their case.

An attorney in the audience disputed that contention saying that to successfully challenge the appraisal, residents would need their own appraisal which he said would cost about \$400. He said the next phase of challenging the appraisal was the Board of Revision which, he said, was simply a rubber stamp for the County. The lawyer said a class action lawsuit would be the only way to successfully challenge the appraisals.

Harbaugh said Tremont, Ohio City and Detroit Shoreway were hot neighborhoods with current values significantly lower than they should be. He said, “Values are up because people want to live in these neighborhoods.”

Mary Rose Oakar responded saying those neighborhoods have a 32% poverty rate and people living in the neighborhoods were not the richest people.

Nelson Cintron noted that the proposed value notices for properties were sent out only in English. Kennedy responded saying translators were available at the Tri-C meetings and at Cuyahoga County offices if needed.

Cintron noted that people buy their houses based on income. He said when taxes go up, house payments go up and insurance costs increase. “We are going to lose our homes,” he said.

Cintron also urged State representatives, Cuyahoga County Council and Cleveland City Council to address a loophole pointed out in a *Plain Dealer* article that allowed LLC’s to avoid listing the true sales value of a property and to address tax abatements. Practices he said that must be changed.

Henry Senyak, representing members of the Lincoln Heights Block Club which, he said, was located in what was the South Side and now is called part of the Tremont neighborhood. Senyak said the area his block club residents live in, is not a wealthy part of Tremont. He said the residents are the working class and the working poor. He noted large increases in home valuations including one on W. 18<sup>th</sup> street that increased from \$14,000 to \$81,000. Senyak said people who have been in family homes for more than 50 or 60 years are being put in a situation where they will not be able to afford their property taxes. He called what is happening in his neighborhood “systemic gentrification.”

Senyak presented a petition to County officials with 170 signatures, mostly from Tremont (South Side) residents, asking for an extension of the time to dispute the proposed value of properties until September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Senyak said 85% of those signing the petition also checked a box on the bottom calling for a review of the City of Cleveland’s property tax abatement policy. Senyak told the *Plain Press* that tax abated properties are being used to compare to existing neighborhood homes for purposes of tax valuation. At the meeting, Appraisal Department Director Harbaugh denied this was happening.

Resources

A number of resources were made available by meeting organizers or county officials attending the meeting. Meeting organizers said home owners wishing to see what properties Cuyahoga County compared their house to when making the appraisal can call Diane Gottchalk at the Appraisal Department at 216-443-4663 to have this information emailed or mailed to them.

Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer Dennis Kennedy offered his phone number to residents: 216-443-8173. His office is in the Cuyahoga County headquarters at E. 9<sup>th</sup> and Prospect.

A Cuyahoga County staff member outlined qualifications for the Homestead Exemption—a program that offers a reduced property tax to qualified individuals. The staff member said the Homestead Exemption program was age and income based. The program was open to individuals age 65 or more and disabled individuals whose income was \$32,200 or less per year. Under the program the first \$25,000 in value of your house would be exempt from property tax. The value above that amount would be taxed.

Another program, a Homestead Exemption for 100% Disabled Veterans, exempts the first \$50,000 in property from taxes. There is no income verification required for the program for veterans.

Individuals wishing to fill out applications for a Homestead Exemption can go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Cuyahoga County Headquarters at E. 9<sup>th</sup> and Prospect to fill out a form. The Cuyahoga County employee said to bring information to verify your income and a staff member can help fill out the application. Taxes can be adjusted going back one year, she said.

Declutter your life and your wardrobe with a closet edit

by Silk Allen

An inexpensive way to refine your style, make your morning routine simpler and have a closet full of pieces that you love can be achieved by closet editing. We only wear about 20 percent of our clothing 80 percent of the time and the rest of the stuff is just taking up space and making you feel bad.

FASHION

Choose an evening to set aside about two or three hours, turn on some music, grab a friend or family member (you can do this on your own but you have to be brutally honest) and a few snacks and beverages to get you through. You will need hangers, plastic garbage bags or bins to separate your piles and to toss your unwanted clothes in.

Do your Laundry

This exercise will only work if you have access to all of your clothes. Wash, dry and fold everything before you get started, but instead of placing them back in your drawers or hanging in your closet, lay them all on your bed in piles: tops, bottoms, dresses, etc. adding your clean clothes into the mix as well.

Sort and pile

Edit the piles one by one and keep only the clothes that you have worn in the last year, clothes that fit you well, have no rips, stains or missing buttons, are a great color on you and not a duplicate of what you already have (unless it’s several pairs of great fitting jeans- you can never have enough).

Anything that is left over needs to go into bins or plastic bags that are marked: Sell, Donate and Toss. The rest of the items can go back into your closet and you can organize them by color, style, length or outfit.

Donate Pile

Toss ill-fitting clothes, pieces that you never really liked or are not flattering, faded tees, styles that you have outgrown and anything else that does not make you look and feel fabulous into your donation bin. Needs Cleveland will pick up your unwanted clothing items and give them to families in need, free of charge. You can also donate to thrift stores of your choice, but women’s shelters and churches are also a great option that many people overlook. Only donate items that are in good shape. No one wants clothes with holes and stains that won’t come out. If you would not pass it down to your little cousin, or let your friend borrow it, throw it away!

Sell Pile

Sometimes we don’t want to let something go, not because we love it, but because it was expensive so



Fashion Columnist Silk Allen

we keep it- even though we have no intentions of wearing it. You can sell your new and gently used items at a consignment shop, online marketplaces, (Ebay, Poshmark, ThreadUp) through social media (Facebook Buy and Sell groups are perfect!) or have your own yard sale- aka a “popup shop”.

Trade

Places like Plato’s Closet and a few online marketplaces will allow you to trade your old clothes for new ones, but a fun way to get new pieces for your wardrobe is to host a clothing swap with several of your friends! Everybody can bring about five or ten clothing items and accessories including bags and shoes and go home with something brand new to them while getting rid of items that were taking up space. Donate whatever is left to an organization of your choice.

Shop

Now that you have removed all the bad seeds from your closet, it’s time to shop! But before you do, make a list of basics that you are missing and need to purchase for a well-rounded wardrobe. If all of your tees were old and ratty, don’t even think about buying those trendy new floral boots before you buy staples like tees, blouses and tunics to replace the items that you just tossed. If you work in an office setting and you just got rid of that boxy blazer that you purchased a decade ago- don’t buy any jeans until you have the perfect blazer that can be worn to work with your separates.

Decluttering is the key to life! If you put in a few hours for one day, you will save time the rest of the season by knowing everything in your closet fits you, makes you look good and feel even better and you have all the items you need for a cohesive wardrobe. I know all this can be overwhelming so, if you have any questions, don’t hesitate to email me [ladysilk@thehouseoffly.com](mailto:ladysilk@thehouseoffly.com).

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, August 5, 2018; Puerto Rican Ceremony and Community Fair, Roberto Clemente Park, 3690 Seymour Avenue: The Salsa band, Papo Ruiz y la Dulzura de la Salsa, entertains the crowd.

## MEDICAID EXPANSION

continued from page one

(parents and persons with a disability) with income less than 90% of the federal poverty rate. Ohio's participation in the expansion in 2014, allowed individuals ages 19-64 with income up to 138% of the federal poverty rate to qualify for Medicaid. The Ohio Department of Medicaid said in 2014, under the program, the state expanded Medicaid coverage to an additional 700,000 Ohioans.

The Ohio Department of Medicaid calls the Medicaid Expansion "Group VIII". It says that "Almost one fifth (17.5%) of Ohioans age 19-64 have participated in the Group VIII program since it began in 2014 (more than 1.26 million individuals).

Welcoming guests to the Medicaid Works conference at MetroHealth Medical Center on August 22, MetroHealth Chief Executive Officer Akram Boutros shared some stories about individuals who because of Medicaid expansion were able to get the health care they needed and return to work. Boutros said, Jeff, a man with no insurance, knew he had a spot on his lung, but waited until Medicaid expansion to get treatment for lung cancer. He told the story of Mary, a diabetic, who prior to Medicaid expansion couldn't afford to take medication or visit the

doctor. Boutros said with the advent of Medicaid Expansion, Mary found a primary care physician and got back to work. Boutros said Mary was now covered by her employers' insurance and no longer needed Medicaid.

MetroHealth played an important role in Medicaid expansion in Ohio. Boutros noted the hospital piloted a Medicaid Waiver Program that proved that expanding Medicaid would save Medicaid and our county millions of dollars. Boutros thanked John Corlett, former Ohio Medicaid Director, for his role in creating the partnership with MetroHealth. Boutros also thanked Governor John Kasich for his bravery in going forward with the Medicaid expansion in Ohio. Boutros then introduced Ohio Department of Medicaid's current director Barbara Sears and also thanked her for her role in continuing to advocate for the program today.

Director Sears praised John Corlett for his commitment to serve those in need in Ohio. She praised MetroHealth for stepping up and doing the waiver program which she said, "gave us an example that we could do statewide."

Director Sears cited some statistics to demonstrate the impact of Medicaid expansion on people's

lives. She said 290,000 Medicaid expansion participants unenrolled in the program because they got a job or increased their income so they no longer qualified. She noted that 83.5% of employed enrollees said their Medicaid insurance made it easier for them to continue to work. 60% of unemployed enrollees said their Medicaid insurance made it easier for them to look for work. She said 15% more expansion enrollees are employed in 2018 when compared to 2016.

Medicaid expansion also contributes to family stability, said Sears. She said 57.6% of parents reported that having Medicaid made it easier for them to pay for food and shelter. 75.7% of enrollees reported having Medicaid made it easier for them to take care of their family. Sears said for example taking care of a family member on Medicare.

Sears then introduced a number of participants in the Medicaid expansion to share their stories with those in attendance.

Amber says she was a caregiver, who at age 24 was unable to work because of an illness and didn't know what was wrong with her. Because of Medicaid expansion she was able to get insurance through Care Source and found out her problem was with her gall bladder and received needed medical attention. She is now working as a care giver with people with medical disabilities that need help with daily living. A mother of five, Amber says she just bought a house for her family.

Quanisha, who works for the nonprofit organization Welcome House, that serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, says Care Source insurance she received through Medicaid expansion helped her to get weight loss surgery. She said prior to the surgery she had high blood pressure and was diagnosed as pre-diabetic. She said, "I have three kids, so I couldn't imagine having to pay for private insurance and take care of my family."

John, said he received treatment for an opioid addiction from 2015 to 2017 that included both Medicine Assisted and Psycho-Social Treatment using United Health

Care Insurance he received through Medicaid Expansion. John said he had worked the same job for 25 years before being laid off and had no resume and no computer skills. He said United Health Care encouraged him to go to the library to get help putting a resume together and told him about a job fair. He said he took the resume he prepared at the library to the job fair and got a job offer for work in a Substance Abuse and Mental Health treatment facility.

Melanie said she was deaf in one ear since birth and couldn't afford medical insurance. Now, thanks to her United Health Care insurance she received through Medicaid expansion, she had ear surgery and can now hear fully. Melanie said she once went to the emergency room because of pain and was told by a doctor that by retirement age she would be in a wheel chair because of knee and hip injuries she had sustained over the years in her work. She said, through Medicaid expansion she was able to get both knees and her hip replaced. Now, age 68, she says she was just offered part time employment. "I appreciate all the help I received from United Health Care," she said.

La Sabryana testified on the importance of Medicaid Expansion to her. She said her health insurance through Medicaid Expansion was Paramount. She said prior to having health insurance she would get strep throat all the time. When she received health insurance she was able to get her tonsils out and no longer gets strep throat. She also has received help in paying for expensive asthma inhalers which allows her to have more money to spend on her son, age 3. She said Paramount is a good company which provides rides to her doctor appointments and sends nurses to the house.

Ohio Office of Budget and Management Director Tim Keen then talked about the financial costs and benefits of the Medicaid Expansion. Speaking of the Medicaid Expansion in Ohio, Keen said, "from my perspective it is both manageable and affordable." He said there is a different reimbursement formula for the people in Medicaid Expansion from those on other parts of the Medicaid program. He said the State's share of the cost of the non-expansion population is 37%, while by federal statute, the maximum the State of Ohio will pay toward the cost of Medicaid Expansion would be 10% starting in 2020 and into the future. However, some budgetary offsets that the State of Ohio can realize because of the Medicaid expansion reduce the effective rate it would pay to 3.2%.

Keen explained the millions of dollars the state would save in different categories in budgetary offsets resulting from Medicaid Expansion. He noted some of the categories – Medicaid paying for the cost of prisoners going to the hospital; drug rebates generated by the expansion; Managed Care Health Insuring Corporation members monthly assessments generated by the expansion; Health Insuring Corporation 1% insurance tax from expansion premiums; and Allowable Upper Payment Limit costs allocated to expansion program.

Keen's numbers projected the overall cost of Medicaid expansion

in the fiscal year 2021 would be 5.172 billion dollars. The State of Ohio's initial share of that cost at the 10% rate would be \$517.2 million. The federal government's share would be \$4.655 billion. Budgetary offsets would reduce the State of Ohio's cost by \$354.1 million, bringing the total net cost to the State of Ohio to \$163.1 million, or 3.2% of the total cost of the program.

Keen estimated that the overall program would cost the State of Ohio \$21 per person per month for a program that, Keen says, makes a "huge difference in peoples' lives."

Following Director Keen's presentation, a number of people in the audience asked questions directed at Ohio Medicaid Director Barbara Sears.

A woman from First Year Cleveland asked if Medicaid could explore ways to improve housing conditions for pregnant moms. Director Sears agreed with the need to improve housing conditions for pregnant women and said that Health and Human Service agencies and community partners would have to be involved for such a program to make budgetary sense. MetroHealth Chief Executive Officer Akram Boutros, citing the high cost of providing medical services to homeless populations, said MetroHealth would be willing to participate in a pilot program to help with identifying pregnant women in need of housing.

Northeast Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE) Organizer Akshai Singh asked if Medicaid could help people without transportation with the cost of a weekly or monthly bus pass so they could get to work or to managed care appointments. Director Sears suggested that the involvement of other agencies other than Medicaid would be necessary to provide such help. She mentioned the Office of Health Transformation, and Health and Human Services agencies. She noted that 14 different state of Ohio agencies are involved in moving people around. She suggested putting an umbrella over the transportation agencies "so no one gets left out."

NOBLE member Gloria Aron asked about efforts in counties throughout the State of Ohio to let people know about Medicaid expansion so the number of uninsured in the State of Ohio continues to go down. Director Sears cited Medicaid rules restricting outreach and spending on letting people know what coverage is available. She said the program was dependent on local groups that can do outreach to let people know what is available.

NOBLE member Diane Howard asked if something can be done about cuts in the Provide a Ride program. Director Sears said transportation services were not perfect in the State of Ohio. She said Ohio is looking to other states for how they provide transportation and their reimbursement models.

In closing, MetroHealth CEO Dr. Akram Boutros stressed the need to explain the benefits of saving Medicaid Expansion to the new administration when a new governor is elected. He said Medicaid Expansion helps people stay healthy and out of the hospital. Boutros said, "Reducing inpatient services is the only way to keep health care costs under control."

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# Tour des Trees cyclists stop at Public Square as part of race to raise funds for tree research

Seventy-five cyclists arrived in downtown Cleveland on August 1<sup>st</sup> as part of North America's largest fundraiser for tree research.

The week-long Tour des Trees covered more than 500 miles, kicking off in Columbus, Ohio and looping through Akron, Cleveland and back. This year marked the first time the race was held in Ohio in more than 20 years.

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual bike ride is an important vehicle for the Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund (TREE Fund) a 501(c)3 charity devoted to sustaining the urban forest and funding research and education grants, to award more than \$3.4 million in grants and scholarships since 2002.

Created in 1991 by arborists at the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) conference, this cycling adventure helps support scientific research on urban tree care, education related to trees and scholarships for aspiring tree care professionals.

"With funds raised by the

Tour, TREE Fund researchers have discovered better ways to propagate, plant, and care for urban trees, making them more resilient, more resistant to pests, and less prone to failure," says J. Eric Smith, TREE Fund President and CEO. "The Tour also funds programs to connect young people with the environment and foster careers in the green industries."

In the last 26 years, the Tour has become much more than a fundraiser. While the goal is to raise money, it is also the TREE Fund's mission to engage the local community, not just the riders. The Tour provides education, events and community engagement.

The 2018 Tour des Trees, lasted from July 29 to August 4, with cyclists raising at least \$3,500 each for TREE Fund.

A typical day will include three or four stops hosted by local tree stewards, tree plantings, book donations, and children's environmental education program for local youth. Major events will also happened along the way: July



Wednesday, August 1, 2018; International Society of Arborists' Tour des Trees Bike Ride for Research, Cleveland Public Square: Seventy-five cyclist arrive at Cleveland Public Square, one of the stops on a 500+ mile bike ride to raise funds for the Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund. The ride was sponsored by Davey Tree Expert Company, an employee owned company, headquartered in Kent, Ohio.

29, Columbus Tour send-off; Aug 1, Cleveland Public square event; Aug 2, Akron tree dedication; and Aug 4, Liberty Tree dedication at the State house in Columbus

"Through our sponsorship of the Tour des Trees, Davey honors our Ohio roots and our founder's passion for trees." said Sandra Reid, vice president, corporate

communications and strategic planning administration for The Davey Tree Expert Company. "We continue Mr. Davey's commitment to the care, education and promotion of scientific research of trees."

In 1880, John Davey founded Davey Tree in Kent, Ohio to care for and preserve nature's most precious assets – trees. He continued his education by publishing a book called "The Tree Doctor," a much needed guide to proper care. The book demonstrated Davey's methods for doctoring trees based on sound scientific methods and observation.

For additional information visit [www.treefund.org/tourdestrees](http://www.treefund.org/tourdestrees) or contact: Jennifer Lennox, manager of public relations, The Davey Tree Expert Company at 330-673-9515, Ext. 8558

With more than 9,000 employees throughout North America, The Davey Tree Expert Company

provides solutions for residential, utility, commercial and government clients. Rooted in research, the company's vision is to achieve balance among people, progress and the environment. Tree experts since 1880, Davey provides diversified tree services, grounds maintenance and environmental services. Davey is one of the largest employee-owned companies in the U.S. and is headquartered in Kent, Ohio.



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