



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR
 Friday, September 21, 2018; Hands Across CLE Street Festival, Lorain Carnegie (Hope Memorial) Bridge: (L-R) Cleveland Police Chaplain Crystal Walker stands on the bridge with Bishop Mark Perry of the Cathedral Church of God in Christ. The event sponsored by the Community Relations Board was designed to join Clevelanders from the East and West sides together to make a stronger and safer city.

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Walter Martens & Sons Funeral Home to remember Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month with a Memorial Service

by Victoria Shea

"When a child loses his parent, they are called an orphan. When a spouse loses her or his partner, they are called a widow or widower," said former president Ronald Reagan when he signed Senate Joint Resolution 314. The resolution designated the month of October as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. "When parents lose their child, there isn't a word to describe them."

A portion of the staff at the Walter Martens & Sons Funeral Home on Denison Avenue know this all too well.

"The death of an infant is probably one of the hardest funeral services to handle," explains licensed funeral director and owner Walter Martens, Jr. "It often leaves you wondering the biggest question without an answer-Why?"

Martens has an understanding of the pain and emotions that come

with the loss of a pregnancy or an infant's passing. In the 1970s, Martens and his late wife Bernadine experienced two miscarriages. Others on his staff experienced the loss of pregnancies or infants' deaths as well.

"It's more common than anyone would like to think," Martens said.

Back in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Martens explained, his late wife had started a support program called, Our Forever Babies-- When Miracles Become Memories, as a way to help the families they were servicing who experienced the loss of a pregnancy or an infant death.

"The program started in the library here at the funeral home," Martens said. "The group would meet once a month for a couple of hours and share their experiences. Bernadine would also share her experiences with our losses as well."

In addition to her support group, a white grapevine wreath was dedicated to the infants who had passed away during the year with their name placed on a decorated wooden heart. The wreath, Martens said, was "placed in a prominent place in the funeral home."

"Just like she did with our holiday program," stated Martens, "Bernadine created a program that helped continued on page 4



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR
 Saturday, September 8, 2018, NEO CYCLE, Edgewater Park: Shaylynn Williams, a Freshman at MC2 Stem High School demonstrates how to charge a cell phone with a bicycle generator. Williams said building the bicycle generator was a project undertaken by her freshmen class.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR
 Saturday, September 8, 2018; Hispanic Alliance and the Northeast Ohio Association for Hispanic Health (NOAHH) Community Walk Against Cancer/Caminata Comunitaria Contra el Cancer, 3110 W. 25th: Community members walked through the Clark-Fulton neighborhood with shouts of "Salud, Si (Health, Yes), Cancer, No."

Hispanic Alliance and NOAHH team up for Walk Against Cancer

by Chuck Hoven

Seventy people gathered at the Hispanic Alliance office on W. 25th and Clark for a Community Walk Against Cancer on September 8th. Walkers were greeted in the parking lot by Lakeland Community College Sophomore volunteers Laura Bertran, Juan Gutierrez and Eva Tevones.

The Community Walk Against Cancer, a project of the Hispanic Alliance along with the Northeast

Ohio Association for Hispanic Health (NOAHH), hopes to raise awareness of the importance of early detection in fighting cancer. Hispanic Alliance Community Engagement Coordinator Sonia Monroy Matis says she has come across a lot of people in the local Hispanic community that have suffered from cancer.

Member organizations of the Northeast Ohio Association for Hispanic Health were in attendance with literature tables and filled with

resources for those in attendance. Organizations belonging to NOAHH include: Alzheimer's Association, American Sickle Cell Anemia Association, CareSource, City of Cleveland Department of Health and Office of Minority Health, Cleveland Clinic, Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center, Hospice of the Western Reserve, MetroHealth Medical Center, Neighborhood Family Practice, University Hospi- continued on page 3

Bond Accountability Commission shares thoughts on its role in monitoring CMSD bond issue spending and school construction

by Chuck Hoven

Bond Accountability Commission Executive Director Elise Hara Auvil explained to those in attendance at the Commission's September meeting at Tremont Montessori School what she saw as the role of the organization she heads. Director Hara Auvil said the goal of the Bond Accountability Commission is to oversee spending of the Bond money earmarked for rehabilitation and construction of Cleveland schools and to watchdog construction dollars. She explained that the Bond Accountability Commission has eleven members, and that six members are needed for a quorum. Five Bond Accountability Commission members were in attendance that evening.

Director Hara Auvil said she has attended recent meetings of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's (CMSD) Board of Education and there has been no mention of

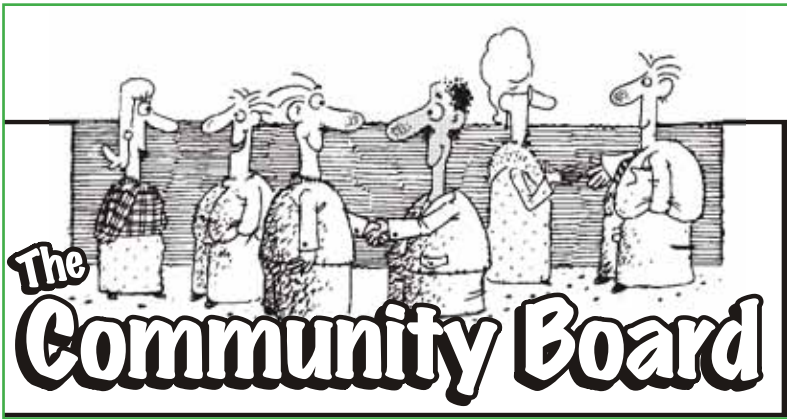
any resolution of the dispute between CMSD and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC). The dispute involves whether or not the State of Ohio will provide funds to CMSD to compensate the district for higher labor costs in Cleveland. Without compensation for the labor market conditions, CEO Eric Gordon has stated that the district cannot complete segments 8 and 9 of the School Facilities Plan.

Director Hara Auvil also noted the limited amount of money left in the Locally Funded Initiatives Fund Number Three. She said there was \$85 million in the fund in April, and now it is down to \$80 million. The dollars in the fund are used to fund construction that the State of Ohio Facilities Construction Commission says it will not pay for due to state school construction guidelines.

A summary of school funding to date compiled by the Ohio Facilities continued on page 8



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
 Sunday, September 2, 2018; St. John Cantius Polish Festival, 906 College Avenue: St. John Cantius' parishioners Alina Czernek and Anna Nowak sell authentic Polish goods. Czernek and Nowak are cousins and arrived in Cleveland from Poland as teenagers. They both attended St. John Cantius High School and have been involved with the parish for many years.



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

ART OF CHRIS DEIGHAN: In the 216, located at 11512 Clifton Blvd is hosting a reception on Friday, October 5 from 5:30 -9:30 p.m. welcoming local artist Chris Deighan to their gallery.

NEAR WEST THEATRE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION: Saturday, October 6 from 6-10 p.m. at W. 67th and Detroit Avenue. Music, dancing, sing-alongs, performances and more.

CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART, 11150 East Boulevard in University Circle, presents International Cleveland Community Day Festival on Sunday, October 7. The festival features more than 50 groups and organizations that present diversity through music, dance and cultural displays. Free.

LITERARY CLEVELAND WRITERS AND READERS SERIES: Free. Join journalist José Antonio Vargas for a discussion of his newest memoir, *Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*. Vargas will shed light on both his personal story and our larger national conversation on immigration and American identity. Saturday, October 13 at 2 p.m. at Louis Stokes Wing Auditorium, 525 Superior Ave.

CITY OF CLEVELAND MAYOR FRANK G. JACKSON'S STATE OF THE CITY 2018 ADDRESS: October 10, Cleveland Public Hall, 500

Lakeside Avenue. Doors open at 6 p.m. Remarks begin at 7 p.m. Registration is required by October 5 online at: <http://bit.ly/CLESOTC18>. Seniors (65+) may opt to register by calling 216-664-2500.

VACANT LAND REUTILIZATION PROGRAM: vacant land is available through the Land Bank Program for side yard expansion or new construction. Applications sought that will contribute to the economic, social or environmental betterment of the city. Lots also can be leased or licensed for certain interim uses such as community/market gardens. Questions and information call the Land Bank Office at 664-4126.

COMMUNITY

FIRST DISTRICT POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING: October 4 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at St. Ignatius of Antioch School Building, 10205 Lorain Avenue. Please bring a donation of canned goods or household products if you can.

SECOND DISTRICT POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Applewood Center, 3518 W. 25th. Enter the gym from Daisy Avenue.

LOCAL CONVERSATIONS ON HISPANIC/LATINO HEALTH PRIORITIES 2018: PANEL DISCUSSION on Tuesday, October 9 at the Wolstein Auditorium at Case Western Reserve University,

2103 Cornell Road. Continental Breakfast 7-7:30 a.m. Lecture: 7:30 -8:30 a.m. Moderator Frances Mills, MA, Director of Community Health Initiatives, Cleveland Office of Minority Health. RSVP to Phillip Rowland-Seymour at: Phillip.Rowland-Seymour@uhhospitals.org by October 4th. Space is limited. 1 CME and CEU credit offered. Parking available at UH Drive Parking Garage, 2010 UH Drive. Sponsored by The Center for Community Impact, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (CEDI).

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. 25th Street (at Clark). For info, contact Sonia Monroy Matis, 216-661-4249 or smatis@hispanicallianceinc.org.

EDUCATION

BEGINNER COMPUTER CLASSES: Merrick House, 1050 Starkweather Avenue, is partnering with Digital C to offer beginner computer classes at Merrick House at no cost. Six students are needed to begin the class. Interested parties can call Tamara Coats, Director of Adult Education at 216-771-5077 to obtain more information.

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 Johaneck at 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 Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8 at NEOMED. Students may register at neomed.edu/brainbee. For more information about the Brain Bee, please contact Dr. Peterson at 330.325.6476 or dpeterson@neomed.edu.

FREE DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING: Learn high-demand digital skills used in today's workplace in Digital C's ReStart Program. No experience necessary. Class computer provided. Classes designed for Cleveland residents with little or no digital skills or experience. Open to veterans, single heads of household receiving public assistance, young adults aging out of foster care and re-entry. Contact us at: restart@digitalc.org or visit www.digitalc.org/restart.

ELECTION 2018

VOTER REGISTRATION: On Tuesday, October 9 – the last day to register to vote in the State of Ohio prior to this year's General Election – Brewnuts will serve free voting themed donuts out of the shop at 6501 Detroit Avenue starting at 6:30 a.m. while supplies last. A volunteer will be on hand for those who want to stop by and register to vote.

UPDATE VOTER REGISTRATION: Election day is Tuesday, November 6. The deadline to register to vote or to update your address is October 9th. Ohio now has a convenient online registration site at: olvr.sos.state.oh.us

EMPLOYMENT

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 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 Johaneck, Economic Opportunities Manager, 216-631-4741 ext. 167.

ENVIRONMENT

DON'T BREAK THE LAKE: A partnership between City of Cleveland Water Department, Sustainable Cleveland and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration asks you to combat plastic pollution in Lake Erie by switching from single-use disposable plastic 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: @SustainableCleveland; 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: westsidecreation-care@gmail.com.

HEALTH & SAFETY

ICE CREAM WITH THE MIDWIVES: Neighborhood Family Practice invites friends and neighbors to a Women's Health Open House on Thursday, October 4 between 5-7 p.m. at Mitchell's Ice Cream in Ohio City, 1867 W .25th Street. Sundae bar, goodie bags for all

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Former Executive Director of Cudell Improvement Anita Brindza speaks regarding the Cudell Improvement/Detroit Shoreway Strategic Alliance

The fourth article of a series on the Strategic Alliance

by Victoria Shea

In her new office for the Western Elmwood Berea Corp., also known as WEBCO, former Executive Director of Cudell Improvement, Anita Brindza has several frames on her office floor and some boxes filled with what one assumes is paperwork. It is a much smaller and lonelier office than what she used to have at the Cudell office on Lorain Avenue.

Yet, Brindza hasn't lost her spark or her spirit and love of Cudell. Before her, on the desk, is the last issue of the *Plain Press* with her comments and notes scribbled in the margins. They are her notes for the discussion at hand as she wants to set the story straight about the Strategic Alliance.

Anita Brindza makes no bones about it--she is heartbroken over the lack of a smooth transition in the Strategic Alliance that Cudell and Detroit Shoreway have created. Her concerns, however, go beyond that.

"Matt Zone seems to be afraid of me." She states. It is for that reason and more that she feels that the Ward 15 councilman and Detroit Shoreway Executive Director Jeff Ramsey are trying to sully her reputation which she finds heartbreaking as "Cudell always gave credit for everything they did to the councilmen, regardless of whether it was John Lynch, Jay Westbrook or now Matt Zone."

She's been a faithful member of Cudell for the last 45 years, and for the last 34 of them, she has served Cudell as the manager of the Cudell Crime Prevention Program, an Associate Director and then Executive Director of Cudell Improvement. "Cudell gave wonderful service," Brindza said. "And I mentored the staff who provided that wonderful service."

The neighbors, and members of Cudell Improvement seemingly

agree. With a smile, she states that people keep approaching her for help when it is needed, knowing that she will help them anyway she can. They know her love of community and it is that love, she says, that has many of them suggesting that she runs against Zone for his council seat. While she is flattered, she says that everyone expects the council person to fix everything, but they can't always do that. She also feels that legislators should not interfere in neighborhoods.

"Every neighborhood is different and determines what their culture is and what's a priority to them," continued on page 6

WALK AGAINST CANCER

continued from page one

tals, Visiting Nurses Association and YDH Consulting.

Walkers ventured out for the walk through the neighborhood after an opening prayer from Pastor Jose Reyes and a welcome from Lissette Lopez Piepenburg of University Hospitals' Center for Clinical Excellence and Diversity Initiatives.

Hispanic Alliance's Sonia Monroy Matis offered some instructions to walkers and separated the group into two mile and one-mile walkers. The group then set out for a walk through the Clark Metro neighborhood. Many of the walkers wore t-shirts on which they had written the name of the person for whom they were walking.

Sonia Monroy Matis led the group with chants of "Salud, Si", "Cancer, No" as they marched down Clark Avenue and headed south through the neighborhood with the one mile and two mile groups each taking a different route.

Following the walk, a series of speakers addressed the walkers.

Lutheran Hospital President Dr. Donald A. Malone, Jr. talked about Lutheran Hospital and shared some



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Saturday, September 8, 2018; Hispanic Alliance and the Northeast Ohio Association for Hispanic Health (NOAHH) Community Walk Against Cancer/Caminata Comunitaria Contra el Cancer, 3110 W. 25th: Esperanza Basillas, Paula Alexander, Marcelena Rivera and Awilda Lugo prepare to head out on a walk through the neighborhood.

insight about the relationship between his specialty – psychiatry and cancer recovery. Dr. Malone talked about the effort Lutheran Hospital is making to better serve the local Hispanic community, and noted the hospital now has Hispanic physicians that speak Spanish fluently.

Dr. Malone said psychiatrists work with cancer patients "to help them feel positive about their experience going through cancer." Dr. Malone say he believes that "a positive attitude can make a difference in survival."

Dr. Malone urged family and friends of cancer patients to provide them with support and help them to navigate the system. He stressed the importance of listening to what patients are saying, noting "depression can be a problem" for cancer patients. He said loved ones of a cancer patient should ask them about anxiety and depression and get them the help they need through a therapist, psychiatrist or psychologist.

Dr. Malone said the best thing you can do to take care of yourself and reduce the risk of getting cancer is to not smoke, or to stop smoking if you are a smoker. He said diet and exercise are also important to overall health and they probably help to reduce the risk of getting cancer.

Dr. Malone said in the future, genetic tests will help to tell who has at higher risk of getting cancer. He repeated what people can do now to reduce risk – don't smoke, watch your diet and exercise. Dr. Malone also stressed the importance of doing the recommended cancer screenings.

Sondra Powell, Assistant Director of Community Outreach and Patient Navigation for Cleveland Clinic's Taussig Cancer Institute stressed the importance of breast cancer screening.

Maria Brown, a pediatric nurse at University Hospitals, talked about children and cancer. She stressed the importance of paying attention to kids who are not eating well or

not growing and gaining weight at the expected rate. If you expect that something is wrong, go see a doctor, she urged.

There was some discussion about how to get kids to eat a healthier diet and about the unhealthy food in vending machines at schools.

Marie Ritchie of CareSource shared some health care tips in Spanish and answered questions and addressed concerns about cancer from of the many Spanish language speakers amongst the walkers.

Several testimonies followed from cancer survivors. All stressed the importance of testing and early detection in their survival.

Hispanic Alliance Executive Director Juan Molina Crespo thanked the event sponsors. He thanked Lorraine Surgical Supply for providing wheel chairs for the walk and thanked the City of Cleveland Office of Minority Health for its support.

Executive Director Molina Crespo talked about Northeast Ohio Association for Hispanic Health and the importance of partnerships and relationships in addressing community issues. He said such relationships help volunteers and staff feel they are not alone in their efforts to promote their ideals. Molina Crespo finished his remarks urging those who were not yet registered to vote to get registered. He noted the critical importance of voting.

Homeowner comments on property values in her neighborhood that have gone down

To the Editor:

I read with interest the article Chuck Hoven wrote regarding the newly appraised home values in Cuyahoga County. Unlike the Tremont area where property values spiked in an inconsistent manner, the property values from my home and in my general neighborhood have gone down. This seems like it is an indication that you are trying to force us out of our homes to buy us out and then to resell to investors to put high end properties around here just like they did around Cleveland Clinic on the east side.

A year ago, I attempted to sell my home for sale by owner, and did so through zillow.com and FSBO.com. The way the Zillow is setup,

is anti for-sale-by-owner, and all about the real estate agent. When I would receive calls from agents, they did not tell me that I had potential buyers; instead they wanted to represent me in order to get a higher commission. I would get cold calls from agents offering me \$20,000 for my five-bedroom, two bath house that is in fairly decent condition. The skewed property values are based on no known real math. It is just a guessing game.

LETTER

I realize that coming into each and every home in Cuyahoga County would be time-consuming and costly in order to appraise it, but if the county is using property values based on websites like zillow.com and realtor.com, that is not

a real property value. Because in our area we have a lot of houses owned by landlords who rent them out, this brings our property values down despite good home owners like myself, who have spent 25 plus years improving the neighborhood.

We cannot afford to move because our property values are underwater and especially for those of us who are older, and possibly disabled. Where could we possibly go? We are on fixed incomes, and we do need help with repairs that will not be astronomically expensive.

Several years ago I needed some help with my home and I contacted Habitat for Humanity for help and they told me that they don't help people like that. Yet the free items that they get for their Resale Shop are priced so high you are better

off just buying new. If Habitat for Humanity is not going to help out the neighborhood, then they should shut down.

All we are asking is fairness. We want the people responsible to do their job. If you need help, then ask. Janice Lascko Simpson Neighborhood

Plain Press
 2012 W. 25th STE 500
 Cleveland, OH 44113
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PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Saturday, September 8, 2018; Clark W. 25th Health Care Building, Clark Avenue at W. 25th: *It's Up to Us*, the giant mural by Cleveland artist John Rivera-Resto, vandalized by graffiti last November has now been restored. The artist completed the restoration this summer while adding a "painting over graffiti" panel to the artwork. In December of 2017, Metro West Community Development Organization initiated an online fundraising campaign to help restore the mural. In March of 2018, *Cleveland Magazine* reported MetroHealth Medical Center and Sherwin Williams were instrumental in providing funding and supplies for the restoration.

INFANT AND PREGNANCY LOSS MEMORIAL SERVICE

continued from page one others."

However, after Bernadine's unexpected passing in 1997, the program

was discontinued.

Reflecting back, Martens sadly said that it was disappointing that the funeral home was unable to

keep the program going at the time of Bernadine's passing.

"With my wife's passing, I was now the only parent left to care for our children, who had just lost their mother. It was a hard time for all of us. It took what energy we did have just to keep her holiday program running. Sadly, that meant letting other programs we offered go."

It wasn't until part of his current office staff started, he explained, that there was even talk of bringing the program back.

"Our office manager was going through boxes in the archives when she stumbled across information on Bernadine's program," Martens explained. "She came forward and asked about trying to restart it."

Her driving force, he said, was wanting to help the families she was working with.

"Normally, with a pregnancy loss or infant passing, she is right there alongside myself, or our other funeral director, helping us. She gives

them comfort where sometimes we can't," Martens said.

Working alongside her cousin, Courtney Burns, in the last few years, they did in-depth research into pregnancy and infant loss. When they approached Martens about bringing back his wife's program, it was hard for him to say no.

"The research and planning they did was amazing," he stated. "Between the stuff they could find, and sadly Courtney's personal experiences with pregnancy losses, they had formed a program that was just as good as Bernadine's."

Their first step in bringing back the program, he explained, is a memorial service.

"Since 1988, October has been recognized as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month," explained Martens. "According to Resolution 314, the month offers families the opportunity to increase understanding of pregnancy and infant loss and explore ways to meet the needs of the bereaved parents and family members."

"One of the ways suggested by Robyn Bear, one of three women who created a movement to have October 15th declared Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day," he continued, "was to sponsor a candle lighting ceremony. Our girls have taken it a step further and will include that as part of their memorial service."

Very similar to the funeral home's holiday and Memorial Day services, families that Martens have serviced who experienced either a pregnancy or infant loss will be invited to the funeral home for the service, as well as the community at large. The order of service will include a reading of the names of those being remembered, a dedication of the funeral home's front window where a new grapevine wreath will be displayed, as well as a candlelight ceremony. Martens says that, as with the firm's holiday service, he expects the emotions at the memorial service to be greater.

"No matter the loss, the grief a person experiences is difficult and unique to each. With the loss of a pregnancy or infant, those emotions become even more difficult. One-minute parents are planning for the future with hopes and dreams. The next minute, those hopes and dreams are taken."

Martens says the memorial service will be kept to just under an hour in consideration of the families' emotions, especially with those who have begun the healing process.

"Dealing with the loss of a pregnancy or the death of an infant becomes a balancing act - on one hand, you want to provide the family a chance to grieve, but on the other hand, the funeral director has to sometimes be the one to remind the mother especially, that she needs to take the time to heal physically," he said. "We're treating this memorial service the same way, while in addition to not reopening or causing a relapse in the families' progression of healing emotionally."

Martens however, is confident that the service will be something special.

"At our Tree of Remembrance last year, the girls changed the program and created a special tree just for the pregnancy losses and infants we had serviced which got some nice feedback, but it was still just a small part of a larger service. By holding a service that is separate of every other service we hold, our hope is that it can bring families together to help create a support system that some may need, but have yet to find."

Just as with Tree of Remembrance, Martens acknowledges the service will invoke some emotions for him personally, having twice been where these families are.

"It's hard sometimes. Both, my wife as well as my mother, experienced pregnancy losses, and that provided me with the insight to be able to appreciate what these families are going through," he reflected. "But, being able to talk about the emotions that come with such a powerful loss, and remember what might have been, with others who have also experienced that kind of loss, helps to remind us all that we aren't alone in our journey."

Sleeping Angels: When Miracles Become Memories Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, October 27th at 3PM at Walter Martens & Sons Funeral Home, 9811 Denison Avenue. The service is opened to all who have experienced a pregnancy loss, stillbirth or early infant loss regardless of whether your family was serviced by the funeral home.



Walter Martens & Sons Funeral Home

9811 Denison Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44102

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General Election voting information

If you are not yet registered to vote and would like to vote in the November 6th General Election, you can still register to vote up until October 9th. Voter registration forms are available at local Cleveland Public Library branches and at local high schools. You can also register online at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website at: boe.cuyahogacounty.us, or call 216-443-3298 to have a registration card mailed to you. To be eligible to vote you must be a United States Citizen age 18 or older and a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days. If you don't have a computer, you can use your library card to access a computer at your local Cleveland Public Library. If you don't have a library card, you can get one at the library – they are free.

Early voting at the Board of Elections (2925 Euclid Avenue) and absentee voting for the General Election start on October 10th.

The General Election Ballot will feature candidates running for statewide offices, candidates for the State House and the State Senate, candidates for the United States

House of Representatives, and candidates for the United States Senate. Several Cuyahoga County positions are being contested in this election including the Cuyahoga County Executive and several of the Cuyahoga County Council positions. In addition, the ballot will include judicial candidates for the Ohio Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and Courts of Common Pleas. The ballot also includes one statewide issue and three Cuyahoga County Charter Amendments.

To view and print out sample ballot, look at the voter information you received in the mail for your ward number and precinct letter. Go the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website at boe.cuyahogacounty.us. Click on View Ballots. Enter the city name, ward and precinct and you can view what is on the ballot in your precinct. The ballot is printed in both English and Spanish.

A number of Voter Guide Websites provide additional information on candidates and issues. Here are some choices: VOTE411.org; ballotpedia.org; Judge4Yourself.com; and Judicial Votes Count.

West 41st Street Bridge Closure set for October 1st

On Monday, October 1, 2018, the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works will close West 41st Street Bridge (No. 01.05) over Norfolk Southern Railroad and Train Avenue. The bridge is located about two-tenths of a mile north of Clark Avenue, between Richner Avenue and South Marginal Road.

The closure is required to perform necessary repairs to the bridge superstructure including replacement of the bearing system. The bridge will remain closed for approximately three months. A detour will be posted.

Visit the Plain Press website at: www.plainpress.org

How to use trendy fall accessories to update your wardrobe

by Silk Allen

September is the new January. For some people at any age it may be due to the "back to school" affect- the return of structure and new routines after a summer of leisure, the purchase of fresh notebooks and supplies for new thoughts and ideas and the change of the weather.

FASHION

However, for me, it's mainly for fashion purposes! Wardrobe-wise it is a soft transition to fall, you start seeing fall items in the stores and it's also the time when New York Fashion Week is on everyone's mind. You can't help but to hear about the clothes, trends and happenings even if you are not a fan of fashion. If you are a fan, then I know I am not alone when I say that it's an exciting time for your own personal style to shine in perfect weather - you bring out your longer sleeves, jackets and boots and gradually layer them with your summer pieces until the very last minute.

The turn of each fashion season is never complete without feeling bombarded with thousands of articles on what the new runway trends are and how to wear them, but to me they never feel inclusive and are not very practical. Everybody can't wear a full-on western look, the sci fi silver pants suit, or the 80's, power hour, cocktail mini dress (and not many of us want to) but, you can rock a cowboy boot, oversized silver jewelry and a bright jacket that have the same elements of style as the runway looks that are more suited for everyday wear. Anybody who wants to get involved with the trends can do so by updating their look with accessories...

Accessories are the unsung heroes of any outfit. They are the most inexpensive ways to dazzle any

wardrobe and allow everyone to feel as trendy as they want without trying too hard. Imagine yourself dressed in a plain white t-shirt and a pair of jeans. Now add a pair of gold hoop earrings, a dainty gold necklace, an animal print tote bag and finish the look off with your favorite pair of ankle boots. You have just upgraded your outfit by a thousand percent – behold, the power of accessories!

Do you want to stick your toe in the fall fashion trend pool without breaking the bank? Start here with my roundup of the most wearable fashion accessories trends for fall:

Bags: This fall, bags range from small and ladylike to super-sized and masculine, and everything in between. A tote bag would look great with any print- animal, floral or graphic, and keep an eye out for purses with cool shapes, metallic finishes and color-block design. Handbags with texture, fringe or embellishments will look great with any outfit that you put together.

Shoes: Now is the time to wear your transitional footwear before the snow hits! Think suede sandals and heels, open toe booties and mules, and don't be afraid to experiment with animal prints like cheetah, leopard and snake which will pair well with more outfits than you think. Boots are having a moment right now so look for ankle boots with buckles and metal hardware, combat boots and even cowboy boots if your style is more alternative.

Jewelry: We don't have enough fun with jewelry these days, often finding pieces that we love and wear forever, which is fine but sometimes it can limit our style. These bold pieces can be dressed up or down if you keep an open mind. Large metal chokers look elegant with any type



Silk Allen

of evening wear but can also add magic to a simple black turtleneck as well. Chandelier earrings can make a little black dress look extravagant at any price point, but don't hesitate to wear a pair with a denim jumpsuit. Finally, a cuff bracelet helps a boring shift dress pop, but will also look extremely stylish when worn over a long sleeve tee.

Extras: Don't forget about belts, thin or wide, plain or embellished, can all be used to cinch in an oversized sweater or to replace the standard fabric belt that came with your dress or trench coat. How about scarves - you can wrap a patterned scarf around your bag, waist or neck, but the trendy way is to tie one around your ankle and jazz up a pair of black heels the next time you wear a dress. Jackets: look for textures like suede, satin, or lace, bold colors; bright blue, cherry red or pale pink, and embellishments; fringe, embroidery or sequins.

Try a little, or try a lot, but at least try to update your fall wardrobe with one of these easy to wear trends. If you need help figuring it all out, email me ladyisilk@thehouseoffy.com and let's chat about it!

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PHOTO BY SILK ALLEN

A fun and easy way to update your style for fall is by using trendy accessories to jazz up any basic outfit. Multi-color rhinestone cuff bracelet with fringe, animal print furry wallet/clutch, snakeskin ankle boots, gold choker, gold chandelier earrings. All stylists/writers' own.



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PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Saturday, September 8, 2018, NEO CYCLE, Edgewater Park: Young people engage in a giant game of live foosball.

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

continued from page 3

she says. "No councilman or other elected official should dictate that and that's what Zone is doing."

It is partly how the Strategic Alliance came into being when Matt Zone turned Brindza's approach to Detroit Shoreway about sharing staff into his dictate of an Alliance.

She reached out through Neighborhood Progress Inc. (which became Cleveland Neighborhood Progress after a strategic planning process), to Detroit Shoreway, she says, about sharing staff in departments like Code Enforcement and Housing. She said that the sharing staff between the two organizations morphed into the Strategic Alliance at the edict of Matt Zone.

According to one of Detroit Shoreway's Board Members, Brindza stated, CNP informed Detroit Shoreway that there was the threat of being defunded unless they formed a merger or an alliance. Detroit Shoreway could have lost over \$60,000 per year.

Jenny Spencer, Managing Director of Detroit Shoreway informed Brindza when they met several years ago that more defunding could be happening, this time to both organizations, from Block Grants because of the Gordon Square Arts District. Brindza stated that she informed the board of Cudell Im-

Lincoln Heights Block Club residents challenge Cuyahoga County property appraisals

Residents of the Lincoln Heights Block Club in the Tremont neighborhood were alarmed at the huge increases in their property tax valuations they received in the mail. In a letter to the editor "Property tax increases alarm Lincoln Heights Block Club residents – an appeal to Cuyahoga County and City representatives for relief" published in the September issue of the *Plain Press*, Lincoln Heights Block Club Chair Henry Senyak described property owners in the neighborhood along the Scranton corridor. "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," he said.

Senyak attended the August 28th community meeting at Franklin Cir-

cle Church where Cuyahoga County Chief Fiscal Officer Dennis Kennedy and Cuyahoga County Director of Appraisals Dan Harbaugh explained the appraisal process, and how to challenge an individual appraisal.

In the days following the meeting, Citizens United For Fairness and former Congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar announced that Cuyahoga County officials had met one of their demands. They had extended the deadline when taxpayers could refute the county's appraisal of their property from August 31st to September 14th.

The second demand for accessible meetings in the neighborhood was not met. Oakar said, "getting ½ a loaf is helpful, but we still demand that the County meet with people **continued on page 8**

provement of this. "The defunding," she states, "would come because Matt Zone would give more of his discretionary funding to Gordon Square Arts District and less to the two CDCs."

Once the discussions began however, it was Detroit Shoreway and not Cudell Improvement, she stated, that did not want to meet for a year regarding the Alliance because they were working on their Strategic Plan. Brindza states that all of this has led to trouble for Cudell.

Jeff Ramsey said that he promised Councilwoman Dona Brady that he would make sure that Cudell is no longer active on Lorain

Avenue, Brindza stated. Which is the reason why Detroit Shoreway is recommending that the Cudell office no longer remain on Lorain Avenue.

She also stated that Detroit Shoreway is receiving one million dollars from Westown, which is Brady's CDC for working with them on the Variety Theater. In addition, she added, Detroit Shoreway is pushing Cudell into selling their real estate.

"This alliance is all about the money," Brindza said.

Reflecting on her last three to five years with Cudell, Brindza states that while she was doing the duties of five people and maintaining Cudell's commitment to service, she states that Zone has refused to allow Cudell to move initiatives forward. An example is Clifton Blvd.

Zone has thwarted Cudell's commercial activities, for example, by suggesting in June 2017 that Cudell didn't have the ability to manage a Special Improvement District for Clifton Blvd. for maintenance, marketing and security, she stated. "That was a total falsehood. Clifton Blvd. is a very strong commercial area and would benefit from maintenance and marketing." Instead, when she would bring it up to Zone, "he'd refuse to do it, stating it's not the right time, etc."

With a sad smile now on her face, she continues to reflect back on her time at Cudell. She's heartbroken --she's stated that numerous times throughout the interview about how everything happened, and the lies and back alley deals that have led to this moment. She misses the people, but she knows that they will have their own initiative to rise above all this to keep their neighborhood viable.

"I'm very honored to have served, and the goal has been service to the community," she states proudly. "I want to help them if I can [because] it is a wonderful neighborhood that's supportive and enthusiastic. I miss them." It shows in just the way she speaks about the neighbors--many of them friends she has made throughout the years.

But she leaves them all with this one parting thought-- "In the absence of strong leadership, there is chaos." In her eyes, that is exactly what has happened when it comes down to this Strategic Alliance.

Editor's Note: Per the terms of Ms. Brindza's severance package, questions regarding Cudell Improvement's Board of Directors as well as her departure from Cudell Improvement were not answered. The *Plain Press* would also like to note that reporter Victoria Shea is a member of Cudell Improvement and has been for the last eight years. She is also friends with Ms. Brindza.

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COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

attendees and fabulous raffle prizes. Get a scoop of the women's health topics you've been wondering about. Join with certified nurse midwives to discuss: Health before, during and after pregnancy, contraception, how to care for your female body, and wellness. Sponsored by Molina Health Care and United Healthcare. For more information, contact Michelle Wilcox at 216-281-0872 ext. 294.

KIDSHOP/TEEN SHOP: A program for children and teens who have an adult family member with cancer. Kid/Teen Shop brings families together using art, play and discussion to help cope with a cancer diagnosis. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at The Gathering Place West, The Sandy Borelli Center, 25425 Center Ridge Road, Westlake. Program is free of charge, but advance registration is required. To register call 216-595-9546.

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME HEALTHY AND LEAN IN 2018? Ask about the new Cleveland Department of Public Health's Steps to a Healthier Weight Program, a free nutrition and exercise program for people 18 years of age and up with a BMI of 25 or above. Weekly session with a personal trainer on Wednesdays from 4-5 pm. at Gunning Recreation Center, 16700 Puritas Ave. To schedule an initial appointment at McCafferty Health Center, 4242 Lorain Avenue, call Kathleen Koviak, RN at 216-4269 or email her at: kkoviak@city.cleveland.oh.us.

END CLINIC: End Nicotine Dependence: Ready to quit smoking? Join our community and breathe easy. Join a research study with a group of other supportive smokers who also want to quit. Get up to 8 weeks of nicotine patches or gum at no cost. Get counseling on how to successfully quit smoking at no cost. Get paid for your time. Call now to join the END Clinic: 216-754-4226. Monday through Friday 9 am-5 p.m.

FLU SAFETY TALK: Cleveland Clinic offers a free flu safety talk on Tuesday, October 2 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Esperanza, 3104 W. 25th Street.

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: Extended Hours in October: Monday from 8 a.m. – Noon.; 1-4 p.m.; Every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 2-7 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 664-4120 or visit the Cleveland Health Department website at: www.clevelandhealth.org.

LABOR

CLEVELAND LABOR FEST: The Labor Education & Arts Project presents Eugene Victor Debs Centennial of the Canton Speech and the Cleveland Trial of Eugene V. Debs. Topic: Free Speech and the Right to Dissent. Friday, October 5, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Cleveland Marshall College of Law, 1801 Euclid Avenue, Moot Courtroom, Room 101. Topic: Espionage Act of 1917 and the fight for free speech then and now. Saturday, October 6, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Cleveland Public Library, 525 Superior Ave, Louis Stokes Wing Auditorium. The Saturday session will include discussion about militarism and the drumbeat for endless war and the question of a political formation independent of the two-party system. Refreshments provided on Friday and a Luncheon on Saturday. For more information call Tom Soddors at 440-364-2822 or newdeallaborart@gmail.com.

TRI-C HOSTS FORUM ON COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS: October 11th event looks at how Community Health Workers can extend the reach of the public health system. Free event includes a presentation on newly released findings from the 2018 Community Health Worker Statewide Assessment, a panel discussion and breakout sessions on industry issues. The forum runs from 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. on October 11th at Tri-C's Manufacturing Technology Center, 2415 Woodland Avenue at the Metropolitan Campus. Lunch will be provided. To register, or for more information visit www.tri-c.edu/HISDevents, or call 216-987-3171.

PARENTING

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.

POLITICAL ACTION

LIFELINE PROGRAM: The Lifeline program helps millions of people living

below the poverty line access telephone and internet services. Lifeline subscribers are speaking out about the importance of the program and affordable access and against FCC Chairman Ajit Pai's efforts to gut the subsidy program. The Free Press Action Fund urges supporters of the Lifeline program to call the FCC at 202-8041389 to tell the commissioners to abandon their plan to roll back the program.

WESTSIDE HOMELESS CONGRESS: Make your voice heard each 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Catholic Worker Storefront, 4241 Lorain Avenue. The homeless congress is made up of unhoused/homeless residents that come together to solve local problems in the homeless community. Questions: Call the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH) at 216-432-0540 or email: advocacy-coordinator@neoch.org. A limited number of bus tickets will be given out to participants at the end of the meeting. Sponsored by NEOCH and The Catholic Worker Community.

CHALLENGING GERRYMANDERING, THE PURGE AND MORE: A panel discussion on voting rights. Thursday, October 4. Doors open at 6 p.m. Program runs 7-8:30 p.m. Market Garden Brewery, lower level room, 1947 W. 25th. Sponsored by the ACLU Ohio, League of Women Voters of Ohio and the Ohio A. Philip Randolph Institute.

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 cfadvocates.org or call 216.443.3377 for more information.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS: Warm Up Cleveland and the Cleveland Public Library are seeking donations of handmade items to help our neighbors in need: hats, scarves, cowls, mittens, gloves, 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 appreciated. 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

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, September 2, 2018; Still & Eatery stage on Whiskey Island: Michael Francis plays the guitar and sings as the band, Custard Pie, entertains the crowd with some rock and roll music.

or visit: www.cpl.org.

NORTHEAST OHIO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS (NEOCH): works to organize and empower homeless and at-risk men, women and children to break the cycle of poverty through public education, advocacy and the creation of nurturing environments. If you would like to find out more, or help, visit NEOCH at www.neoch.org.

YOUTH

CHECK OUT 216TEENS.ORG for information on puberty, STDS, pregnancy prevention and relationships. 216TEENS is the Cuyahoga County Board of Health's campaign to prevent teen pregnancy and STDS.

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Dogs compete in Ultimate Air Dogs' dock jumping competition at Edgewater Park



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL OAKAR
Saturday, September 8, 2018, NEOCYCLE, Edgewater Park: This dog is one of the competitors in the Ultimate Air Dogs' dock jumping competition at a pool provided by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. The contest measures the length of each dog's jump.

by Diane Lange of Broadview Bys, Ohio. Scout's longest jump was 24 feet, eight inches.

The winner of the Master Elite finals was Edge, a four-year-old male owned by Susanne Sparano of Jacksonville, Florida. Edge's longest jump was 24 feet, 3".

Sequel, an eleven-month-old female owned by Ronalee & JD McNight won the Master finals with a 23-foot jump. Coming in second in the Master finals was Nyla, a three-year-old female, owned by Michael Spayde of Sunfield, Michigan. Nyla's longest jump was 20 feet, 2 inches.

For more information about Ultimate Air Dogs, or to register a dog to compete in one of their competitive events visit their website at: ultimateairdogs.com.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

continued from page one

Construction Commission showed that since the passage of the first bond issue in 2001, fifty buildings have been constructed or rehabbed or are being worked on now with a total cost of \$1.016 billion dollars. The State of Ohio paid 68% of that cost for Segments one through seven. In addition to the 68% cost, the state chipped in an average of 10% more per segment for segments 1 through 6 for a total of \$101.5 million to compensate CMSD for market conditions in Cleveland (higher costs). Another \$3.25 million was given to Cleveland following negotiations on the extra costs for Segment 7 that is currently under construction. In the early years of the program (Segments 1 and 2), the State of Ohio also contributed \$55.4 million to make existing schools Warm Safe and Dry.

Given the dispute with the State of Ohio and the limited funds for Locally Funded Initiatives, there was some discussion as to whether CMSD would have enough resources to fund the additional 13 schools planned for Segments 8 and 9 of the CMSD Schools Facilities Plan. That question resonated with those in attendance, most of whom had a stake in the future of Tremont Montessori School which is in Segment 9 of the School Facilities Plan. Director Hara Auvil said, there probably are not enough dollars left to complete all 13 schools in Segments 8 and 9 of the Facilities Plan. Maybe, not all 13 schools should be built, she suggested, given the district's current population.

Because of the population of

NEOCYCLE, the nation's largest Urban Cycling event, held at Edgewater Park on the weekend of September 7th through 9th, offered a great deal of entertainment for visitors. One of the more exciting competitive events was the Ultimate Air Dogs' dock jumping competition held at a dock and pool provided by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

Dogs and their owners came from near and far came to compete in the competition. The competition involves dogs jumping through the air and into the water to retrieve an object thrown from the dock. The length of each dog's jump is measured, and dogs receive certificates categorizing them based on the length of their jump. Categories include: Novice, Junior, Senior, Senior Elite, Master, Master Elite and Ultimate. The dogs with the longest jumps are in the Ultimate category.

In the final competition, the dog with the longest jump of the day, and winner of the Ultimate finals was Storie, an eight-year-old female owned by Ronalee & JD McNight of West Milton, Ohio. Storie's longest jump was 28 feet 4 inches. Coming in second in the Ultimate finals was Scout, a four-year-old male owned



Tremont Montessori School, Director Hara Auvil suggested it factored well as to its chances of getting funded. A grandparent of a child at Tremont Montessori School expressed concern that CMSD wanted to eliminate Tremont Montessori because it was not a neighborhood school and the high cost to the district of busing students from around the whole city to the magnet elementary school. She also wondered why CMSD had not make promised repairs to the school and if money earmarked for the school for repairs was going to fund some of the elitist schools in the district.

Director Hara Auvil said that the Bond Accountability Commission had compiled a report of spending of Locally Funded Initiative dollars by neighborhood from the beginning of 2017 to the present. She said the report is available on the Bond Accountability Commission website at www.bondaccountability.org.

Some discussion followed with the Tremont Montessori Principal wondering who the decision makers were and what it would take for Tremont Montessori School to get moved from the back of the line to the front in terms of when the new school would be built. She asked about the possibility of Tremont Montessori School raising some of its own money to help with the extras in the new school.

There were questions about the budgeting of Locally Funded Initiatives (LFI) if the Tremont Montessori wanted to put in extras not funded by the State of Ohio. The question



was raised as to how many LFI dollars are going into the Campus International School in downtown Cleveland. Director Hara Auvil said she is monitoring that construction project and will have answers when the books are closed on that construction project.

CMSD representative David Riley, in attendance at the meeting, explained the financing of the LFI. He said the \$80 million in the fund is all there is to spend on local initiatives. He explained that CMSD borrowed money against future revenue pro-



TAX APPRAISAL CHALLENGE

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in their neighborhoods. There are many problems with these appraisals, and we will continue to make sure that the County is accurate, fair and transparent."

Members of the Lincoln Heights Block Club did take advantage of the additional information provided at the Franklin Circle Church meeting and the extended deadline. Block Club Chairperson Senyak reported that the appraisal issue was discussed in detail at the block club's September 10th meeting. Senyak said, "I think about two dozen people contacted the County

to request Informal Appeals just in Lincoln Heights. Several neighbors did get comparables on how they (Cuyahoga County) arrived at the increase."

While Cuyahoga County officials reported at the Franklin Circle meeting that appraisals did not compare older homes that have not been totally rehabilitated with substantially-rehabilitated homes, Senyak said this was not the case in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood. He said, "It was clear that almost everyone had the same totally rehabbed and flipped homes for big money as a comparable."

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jected from property taxes approved by voters. Thus, the district already has its money, and when the taxes come in each year, they are dedicated to paying back the bond issue.

At the closing of the meeting the

Bond Accountability Commission discussed plans to hold its November 27th meeting at Max Hayes High School and have a discussion of a report on the CMSD's Workforce Inclusion for construction projects.

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