



**PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN**  
**October 14, 2018; Cleveland Drum Circle, Edgewater Park: A member of the Cleveland Drum Circle helps to fill Edgewater Park with spirit and rhythm.**

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# Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

## Art House receives Stand for the Arts Award

Over seventy friends and supporters of Art House gathered at its facility at 3119 Denison Avenue on October 20<sup>th</sup>, for a Stand for the Arts Award Ceremony honoring Art House. Ovation TV, America's only arts network, and local cable provider, Spectrum, hosted the invitation-only, catered event which included the presentation of a \$10,000 check to Art House.

In describing the award, the Art House website says, "OvationTV and Spectrum with affiliate and distribution partners, provides con-

tributions to help support local arts, cultural, and educational organizations. Stand for the Arts Awards are granted based on three criteria: level of community outreach and engagement, ability to create inclusive access to artistic programming, and innovative approach to arts education and skills development."

The website notes, "Art House, Inc. was selected to receive a Stand For The Arts Award this year 'for their unique and powerful work elevating creatives and communities through art.' The award includes a

grant of \$10,000."

At the Awards Ceremony, Gary Underwood, Regional Vice President of Government Affairs at Charter Communications, represented Spectrum. Underwood said Art House is one of twelve arts organizations being honored with a Stand for the Arts Award. Sol Doten, Vice President of Content Distribution and Marketing for Ovation, praised Art House for its community outreach, cultural programs and arts education.

Artists Augusto Bordelois and Gina Washington, and Arts Educator Christian Osterland shared some stories about how, through their work with Art House, they are harnessing the creative energy of students in Cleveland classrooms.

Bordelois, a teaching artist at Art House, said his work with students involves creating projects which he called, "great fun. He said working on art projects "invigorates kids."

Bordelois described a project with John Marshall High School students where students were learning about biomimicry. He said as preparation for their art work, they went to the Cleveland Zoo and talked to zoo keepers about examples of biomimicry. He said some examples included a drone, designed to look like an insect, contained a camera that helped to protect African elephants from poachers, and another was the creation of a football helmet,

continued on page 3

## Orchard School hosts Cleveland Metropolitan School District Board of Education meeting

by Chuck Hoven

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) Board of Education held a meeting at Orchard School on Bailey Avenue in the Ohio City neighborhood on October 23. Orchard Principal Kathryn Francis and CMSD Chief Executive Officer



**PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN**  
**October 14, 2018; Cleveland Drum Circle, Edgewater Park: A member of the Cleveland Drum Circle beats a rhythm at Edgewater Park. Nine drummers participated in the drum circle which may have been the last outdoor session of the year. The group, which meets each Sunday at 3 p.m., moves indoors to St. Colman Church when the weather turns cold.**



**PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR**

**October 20, 2018, Pumpkin Decorating, Greenwood Park, W. 38<sup>th</sup> & Bailey: Cleo Epuran, age 4, is painting a pumpkin. The Pumpkin Decorating event was sponsored by Friends of Greenwood Park, the Fulton-Lorain-Bailey Block Club, Ohio City Inc., and Neighborhood Connections.**

## Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge seek support for bridge improvements

by Chuck Hoven

A newly formed group, Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge, is working to gain community support and additional funds for an effort to make major improvements to the railroad bridge on Lake Avenue between Desmond Avenue and Viking Road, just east of the Shoreway entrance.

According to group member Nikki Hudson, Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge sees the condition of the bridge and the neglect of the area around it "as a barrier between our neighborhood and Edgewater Park." Hudson says members of the group, Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge, are "dedicated to the restoration and repair of the historic railroad bridge which sits on Lake Avenue, just south of the Shoreway near Edgewater Park."

"We have been working with Councilman Zone and Cudell's CDC to leverage improvements to the bridge and have organized several

clean ups at the site. One of our members, Julia Van Wagenen, applied for and received grant money for a public art project at or near the bridge as well," says Hudson

Julia Van Wagenen says she asked about the bridge at the ioby fundraising meeting last winter. (ioby is a community led positive change organization that helps with fundraising.) ioby then helped connect her with one of her neighbors, Morgan Taggart, who had also raised the issue of the deterioration of the bridge. Together, they started a discussion about the condition of the bridge at an Edgewater Parke Block Club meeting in the Spring of 2018. The block club serves the area between W. 85<sup>th</sup> and W. 95<sup>th</sup> bounded by Detroit Avenue, Lake Avenue and Desmond.

From those initial contacts emerged a core group of Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge whom have continued on page 8



**PHOTO BY JULIA VAN WAGENEN**  
**February 27, 2018; Lake Avenue between W. 87<sup>th</sup> and Clifton: The underside of the Lake Avenue Bridge with pieces of concrete and metal from the bridge that have fallen on the sidewalk beneath the bridge.**

Cleveland schools to restore an automobile. The vehicle will be on display to the public on November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30 -7:30 p.m.

CEO Gordon also reported that the district is updating its facilities plan and working to make data

continued on page 6

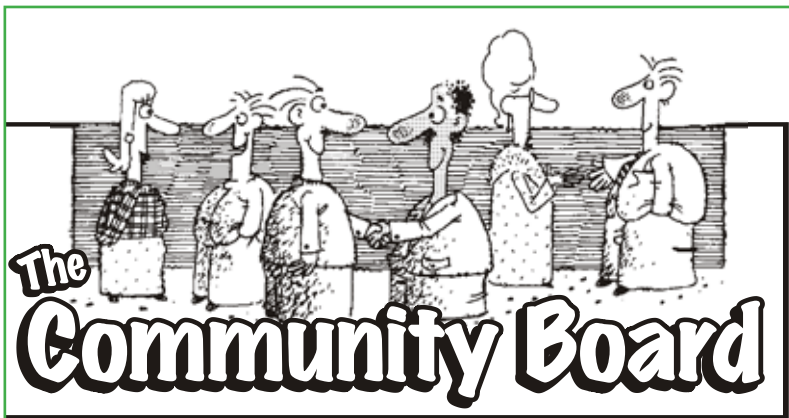
(CEO) Eric Gordon noted, to those present, that Orchard had become an Apple Distinguished School in 2016 which means every student in the school has an ipad.

CEO Gordon announced that Max Hayes High School's Auto Lab has partnered with two other Greater



PHOTO BY ADAM DUNN

July 15, 2018; Lake Avenue Bridge Clean-up: Friends of the Lake Avenue Bridge participated in cleaning up under and around the bridge.



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 PUBLIC THEATER'S Y-HAVEN THEATRE PROJECT** presents an original play, *Outside the Mirror* by formerly homeless men in transition based on their journey toward recovery. Free (donations accepted) performances at Cleveland Public Theatre, 6415 Detroit Avenue on Thursday, November 8 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, November 9th at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, November 11 at 3 p.m. Community performance at Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority Lakeview Terrace Community Center, 1290 W. 25th on Thursday, November 15 at 5 p.m.

**OHIO INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL FREE PRE-EVENT NETWORKING PARTY:** Friday, November 2nd at the Bop Stop, 2920 Detroit Avenue hosted by Robert Banks. Doors open at 7 p.m. Entertainment by Brent Kirby at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

**CLEVELAND DRUM CIRCLE:** Sundays at 3 p.m. at St. Colman Church, 2027 W. 65th Street.

**TRANSFORMER STATION,** 1490 W. 29th Street. "In Her Image: Photographs by Rania Matar" through January 13, 2019. Hours: Wednesday thru Sunday: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Thursday: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

**BENEFITS**

**#HELPIIN THE CLE** 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.

**FOOD ASSISTANCE** is just a phone call away. Call 216-738-7239 or visit GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org. Text FOOD to 63566 for information about Food Stamps (SNAP) applications, food pantries, free produce and hot meals. Income guidelines for SNAP: Gross monthly household income less than \$1,307 for one person; less than \$1,760 for two people; less than \$2,213 for three people; less than \$2,665 for four people; and add \$4,453 for each additional person beyond four people. (Note: limits are higher for those age 60 or older or disabled).

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

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

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

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

**COMMUNITY**

**CLEVELAND WESTSIDE VILLAGE POTLUCK MEETING:** The Cleveland Westside Village (CWV) is a group of Westsiders celebrating the opportunities and meeting the challenges of aging in our neighborhood. We see the need to act to deal with the issues of aging, in our lives and in our neighborhood. CWV is a place to belong, to grow, and to matter beyond our immediate families. Cleveland Westside Village will have its quarterly/potluck membership meeting at St. Paul's Church (4427 Franklin Blvd) on November 11th from 6-8 p.m. Members and anyone interested in learning more about the organization are encouraged to come.

**CLEVELAND CONNECTS:** We're Behind, Lessons from Peer Cities, Wednesday, November 7 at 9 p.m. on Cleveland Public Radio, (WCPN 90.3 FM).

**FIRST DISTRICT POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING:** First Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at St. Ignatius of Antioch School Building, 10205 Lorain Avenue.

**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.

**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.

**DONATIONS**

**CRAFTING FOR A GOOD CAUSE:** Donate hand-made items to the Cleveland Public Library's Warm Up Cleveland campaign to help our neighbors in need. Knit, Sew and Crochet: 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 infant to adult. All items donated to local charities. Drop off completed items at any Cleveland Public Library location. For more information contact Outreach and Programming Services at 623-2921.

**REFUGEE STUDENTS WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE** now until November 9th. Donate hats, gloves, coats, scarfs

and new socks in sizes for students in grades Kindergarten to 12th grade. Clothing can be dropped off at the Multilingual Multicultural Education office inside of Thomas Jefferson School at 3145 W. 46th Street. To request a pickup of the donations, contact Khwater Nayef at 216-838-6978 or by email at [khwater.nayef@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:khwater.nayef@clevelandmetroschools.org).

**RED CROSS BLOOD DONATION OPPORTUNITIES:** November 4th from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., at La Sagrada Familia, 7719 Detroit Rd.; and November 14th: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., MetroHealth Medical Center, 2500 Metrohealth Drive.

**EDUCATION**

**PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Disability Rights Ohio needs your help with a class action lawsuit: Doe, et al. v. State of Ohio, et al. Case No. 2:91-cv-00464 U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. Disability Rights Ohio filed this class action lawsuit that claims the state does not give enough money to school districts to provide a free and appropriate public education to students with disabilities. Has your special-education student been denied services because the school district said it did not have enough staff or money to provide the services? Is your special-education student spending time in a separate classroom when you would like the student to be educated in a general education classroom? If you have experienced these issues or have information to share with us, please call the Disability Rights Ohio intake line at 800-282-9181, option 2.

**SEEDS OF LITERACY,** 3104 W. 25th Street. Free adult education & GED Preparation. 1 to 1 tutoring. Flexible days and times. Learn at your own pace. Two-day registration for new students. You must complete both days of registration in the same week. Pick a day or evening time. Day 1: Monday 12:30 - 3 p.m., Day 2: Tuesday 12:30 - 4 p.m.; Evening 1 Monday 4:40 p.m. - 7 p.m., Evening 2 Tuesday 4:30 - 8 p.m. Classes Monday - Thursday 9 - 11 a.m.; 1-3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. For more information call 661-7950 or visit [www.seedsofliteracy.org](http://www.seedsofliteracy.org).

**WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES EVENING PROGRAM:** Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting November 13, 6-8 p.m., West Side Catholic Center, 3209 Lorain Avenue (Please enter from the back door.) 1st Floor: Digital C: Intro to Computer Classes - a 3-week program. 2nd Floor: Job Assistance, Money and Me (Financial Literacy).

**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.

**TRANSFORMATION ALLIACE:** Compare schools in Cleveland. Search interactive website by neighborhood and ratings, and make side-by-side school comparisons at: MyCLESchool.org. The website also provides travel time and directions to any public school in Cleveland.

**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 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).

**GALE COURSES:** Free online classes with your library card. Classes run for six weeks and begin every month. Many types of classes including accounting, computer applications, legal and personal development. To enroll visit [cpl.org/galecourses](http://cpl.org/galecourses) and click GET STARTED NOW. Browse the site and pick a class. Select a start date. Create an account and enter your library card number.

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

orientation session. Call 833-277-4732 or visit the website: [inspiregreatercleveland.org](http://inspiregreatercleveland.org) for a complete list of orientation sessions.

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

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

**ELECTION 2018**

**ELECTION COVERAGE:** Cleveland Public Radio (WCPN 90.3 FM) will provide election coverage on the evening of Election Day (November 6th). Hear results from Ideastream, the Statehouse News Bureau and NPR Politics.

**EMPLOYMENT**

**CLARK FULTON RESIDENTS: NEED HELP GETTING A JOB?** Learn more about free job training for Clark Fulton residents on Tuesday, November 6 at 3167 Fulton Road, Suite 303. Spanish Orientation: 5-5:30 p.m. English orientation: 5:30-6 p.m. Learn more about The Centers - El Barrio's Free training services and how to connect with local and national employers. For more information call 216-325-WORK.

**WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER:** Workforce Development 4 -week Program - Next Session starts Monday November 5th. The Guaranteed Job Offer Program: 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

**EVENTS**

**STOCKYARDS TRUNK OR TREAT:** Wednesday, October 31, Halloween Night, Storer Ave at W. 54th Street, 5 p.m. - Until. Candy and safe fun for boys and girls of all ages.

**CITY LIFE TRUNK OR TREAT:** Wednesday, October 31, 6-9 p.m., City Life Center, 3340 Trowbridge: Free food, candy, hay rides, hot chocolate, movies, live music and more. All ages welcome.

**HOLIDAY CELEBRATION:** Saturday, December 1, 4-6:30 p.m. MetroHealth Main Campus Outdoor Quad. Free Tree Lighting, hot cocoa & entertainment.

**DIA DE MUERTOS/DAY OF THE DEAD:** Saturday, November 3rd at Cleveland Public Theatre Church Parish Hall and surrounding area, 6205 Detroit Avenue. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.: Altars Exhibition, Cemetery Installations and Performances. 11 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.: Face painting & crafts workshops. 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.: Skulls & Skeletons Procession. Open to the public. All participants in the procession required to register. Register at Dia de Muertos Ohio 2018 on Eventbrite.

**HEALTHY HOLIDAY COOKING CLASS:** Wednesday, November 14 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Neighborhood Family Practice, 3569 Ridge Road. Cooking class on low cost and healthy holiday meal planning and preparation. Class includes meal tasting, food prep and demos, exciting giveaways, nutrition tips, recipes to take home and much more. Space is limited. Please RSVP to Michelle at 216-281-0872 ext. 294

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

**FLU VACCINES AT NO COST TO YOU:** Every Monday at McCafferty Health Center, 4242 Lorain Avenue, from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Please bring your card if you have insurance. If you don't have insurance, no problem. Call 664-6603 for more information.

**INTERNATIONAL SUICIDE LOSS SURVIVOR DAY:** November 17. Visit: [aspf.org](http://aspf.org) for more information.

**MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS DECEMBER 7:** For help with coverage choices visit Medicare.gov.

**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,

**continued on page 7**

## Thanksgiving Dinner

T

here will be a delicious Thanksgiving dinner served at St. Augustine Church, 2486 West 14 Street, on Thursday, November 22, 2018, from 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

If you are homebound and unable to attend, please call 216-781-5880 and we will make arrangements for a meal to be delivered right to your door. Orders will be taken up until 12 p.m. (noon) on Wednesday, November 21.

Please call between the hours of  
9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

TODAY'S SPECIAL

# Why Vote?

by Randy Cunningham

We are hard core activists working in the electoral arena. We've got the talking points. We've got the walk lists. We've got the voting records of voters going back sixteen years for each precinct. We've got the polling data that makes us depressed or elated. We are the ones who know what is going on.

## COMMENTARY

All this confidence crumbles when you go to a door, knock on it and talk to the person who answers, and they say, "No, I don't vote." "Why don't you vote?" "Because it doesn't matter. My vote does not matter." That usually ends the conversation, and as you walk to the next door you shake your head and ponder why the person you talked to does not care what happens to them after the election or is just terminally disillusioned. Those are easy responses that people in the know, people like you, feel comfortable with.

The most important characteristic of the American political system is how few people participate in it. Which asks the question: "Just how real is American democracy? Or, is it just a fraud, a lie and a con job?" Which is pretty much the attitude of non-voters.

And, what stops us dead in our tracks is that many of us agree that it is a con job. We see the machinations of the two parties to suppress dissent in their ranks. We see the oceans of money that have made our elections into little more than auctions. We see how the need to "feed the beast" on the part of the

media distorts the news and makes us more ignorant in the name of making us more informed.

It is not hard to be cynical about American politics. It is easy. If we sat down with a non-voter and a six pack of beer and we discussed why America's politics suck, we would be surprised at how much we agreed on by the time we finished the last beer.

However, we vote, and we urge others to vote because the bastards who run the system have not stomped all hope out of us and we know their sin is not as great as the sin of not using every opportunity we have to oppose them and make American democracy a reality.

We know that the greatest sin is to make the dream of those who run our society come true. That dream is to allow our rulers to complete the task of turning us into field hands on a corporate plantation. If we give up, they win.

Why vote? Because those who want to wipe their feet on you don't want you to vote. They show that they don't want you to vote by doing end runs around democracy like Cleveland City Hall did with the Fight for \$15 that denied you the right to vote on that initiative.

Remember how they fought us on our effort to get the Q proposal on the ballot? They show that they don't want you to vote with ever more complicated schemes to suppress the vote.

Vote because it shows that you have not given up on the one thing

## Questioning Councilman McCormack's response to Market Square Park shooting

To the Editor

In early October, two members of our near west side community were victims of a crime when they were shot during an argument at Market Square Park. These two people live, work, and volunteer in our community and support their families and friends in our community. You would not know that given the description of the incident by Councilman Kerry McCormack. Instead of recognizing these community members as victims of a crime, the response from the Councilman is to increase policing and surveillance in the neighborhood. For the poor, unhoused and marginalized in our community that means that they will feel less safe because they are the ones being targeted by police.

## LETTER

Increased policing is an unfortunate but expected side effect in a neighborhood that is seeing a rapid influx of new, wealthier, white residents. This shooting incident seems to be a good excuse to ramp it up.

One wonders if this incident had happened at Town Hall, if the victims would be portrayed the same? Are we not able to recognize the poor and unhoused as members of the Ohio City community, or that they are victims of violent crimes?

Paula Miller  
Near West Side



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

October 19, 2018; Stand for the Arts Award Ceremony honoring Art House, 3119 Denison Avenue: Art House receives a \$10,000 check from Spectrum and Ovation TV during a Stand for the Arts Award Ceremony. (L-R): Ward 12 Councilman Anthony Brancatelli, Artist Augusto Bordelois, Charter Communications' (Spectrum) Regional Vice President of Government Affairs Gary Underwood, District 21 State Senator Sandra Williams, Art House Executive Director Laila Voss, Ovation TV's Vice President for Content Distribution and Marketing Sol Doten, Artist Gina Washington, Art Teacher Christian Osterland.

## ART HOUSE

continued from page one

designed like a porcupine spine, that moves with impact so the head inside the helmet is protected from vibrating. Students working on the project created art stemming from their observations of nature.

Bordelois said he had the students create their own frames for the artwork using power tools. He shared some stories about students using power tools for the first time.

Artist Gina Washington talked about being able to use art to communicate and work with children who have only been in this country a month, and the joy the children experienced. Washington shared her appreciation of Art House as a place to work. She said, the organization, founded by and run by an artist, allows artists, "the freedom to be creative."

Christian Osterland, an art teacher at Denison Elementary and Wil-

bur Wright Elementary, said he first became familiar with Art House in 2001. He said at that time, he was working at Denison Elementary School teaching art from a cart without any formal classroom art program. He said, the then Councilwoman Merle Gordon introduced him to Art House across the street from the school, and he began to use the facility for his students. Osterland said, "Kids coming over to Art House was an amazing thing for me as an art teacher, being able to offer kids what Art House has to offer." He noted the importance of students being able to observe and work with working artists. He called Art House "a great thing for my students."

Osterland said, when he was assigned to also work at Wilbur Wright, Art House helped him to develop an art program for that building. He said working with Art House has made "my career as an art teacher very satisfactory."

Art House Executive Director

Laila Voss in accepted the \$10,000 check from Ovation and Spectrum thanked the executives from the companies for the Stand for the Arts Award which she said would help Art House to embrace the future. State Senator Sandra Williams (D-21) and City of Cleveland Ward 12 Councilman Anthony Brancatelli delivered proclamations of appreciation to Art House as well.

**Editor's Note:** For more information about Art House visit their website at: [www.arthouseinc.org](http://www.arthouseinc.org).

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**Trusted Leadership for our future**  
Nickie J.  
**ANTONIO**  
for State Senate 23 • Vote Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

September 23, 2018; Ohio City Street Festival: W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, near the West Side Market, was closed for the festival which featured food, drink and arts entertainment.

## General Election voting information

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. To view a ballot ahead of time or check your polling location visit [boe.cuyahogacounty.org](http://boe.cuyahogacounty.org).

Early voting at the Board of Elections (2925 Euclid Avenue) will be available on Saturday November 3 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-5 p.m. and Monday November 5 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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](http://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](http://VOTE411.org); [ballotpedia.org](http://ballotpedia.org); [Judge4Yourself.com](http://Judge4Yourself.com); and [Judicial Votes Count](http://JudicialVotesCount.com).

Issue One on the Statewide ballot is a constitutional amendment to reduce penalties for crimes of obtaining, possessing and using illegal drugs. If adopted, the amendment would:

- Require sentence reductions of incarcerated individuals, except individuals incarcerated for murder, rape, or child molestation, by up to 25% if the individual participates in rehabilitative, work, or educational programming.
- Mandate that criminal offenses of obtaining, possessing, or using any drug such as fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, LSD, and other controlled substances cannot be classified as a felony, but only a misdemeanor.
- Prohibit jail time as a sentence for obtaining, possessing, or using such drugs until an individual's third offense within 24 months.
- Allow an individual convicted of obtaining, possessing, or using any such drug prior to the effective date of the amendment to ask a court to reduce the conviction to a misdemeanor, regardless of whether the individual has completed the sentence.
- Require any available funding, based on projected savings, to be applied to state-administered rehabilitation programs and crime victim funds.
- Require a graduated series of responses, such as community service, drug treatment, or jail time, for minor, non-criminal probation violations.

For analysis supporting Issue One visit [Policy Matters Ohio's website](http://policymattersohio.org) at: [policymattersohio.org](http://policymattersohio.org). For an opposing view visit the [Ohio State Bar Association website](http://www.NoOnIssue1.org) at: [www.NoOnIssue1.org](http://www.NoOnIssue1.org).

## Citizens United for Tax Fairness plans another meeting to explain process of challenging property tax appraisals

In late August, Citizens United for Tax Fairness (CUTF) held a public meeting to address what many homeowners felt were unfair appraisals of their properties by Cuyahoga County. CUTF also hoped that Cuyahoga County officials attending the meeting could address confusing information about how homeowners could challenge their property tax evaluations.

CUTF organizer, Mary Rose Oakar, says the confusing letter from Cuyahoga County resulted in some people believing they needed a formal appraisal to challenge the County's appraisal. At the meeting, residents learned that was not necessary, but other means could be used.

Oakar says that the latest figures she received from Cuyahoga County are that out of the roughly 489,000 households in Cuyahoga

County about 35,000 households challenged their property tax evaluations in hopes the County would revise the initial appraisal. Oakar says Cuyahoga County plans to be finished evaluating and responding to the challenges by November 16<sup>th</sup>.

If homeowners are not satisfied with Cuyahoga County's ruling on their challenge to their property tax evaluation, the next step would be to challenge the property tax evaluation at the Cuyahoga County Board of Revision.

Oakar says CUTF hopes to hold another meeting in late November or early December to have Cuyahoga County officials explain how to mount a challenge at the Board of Revisions. Oakar said Cuyahoga County Chief Fiscal Officer Dennis Kennedy has already agreed to the meeting.

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## XPRIZE's international adult literacy competition draws a local team to try new apps to reach out to adult learners

by Chuck Hoven

A representative of an international organization came to Cleveland in September hoping to work with Cleveland organizations with adult literacy programs to show them how their efforts to reach adult learners can be vastly increased. The organization, XPRIZE, which designs and operates world changing incentive competitions, hopes to be able to distribute literacy apps to one million adult learners through a competition to be held next year.

At the Cleveland meeting, community organizations in attendance listened to XPRIZE Adult Literacy Senior Associate Haneen Khalaf explain the XPRIZE \$1 Million Communities Competition. They learned that the competition, sponsored by the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, hopes to advance the way adults improve their literacy skills through the use of adult literacy apps thereby reaching more adults and allowing learning to happen whenever an adult can find time to work with the app.

XPRIZE says it selected Cleveland as one of the locations to help with outreach in this national effort "because of the number of organizations that support various literacy

efforts across the region."

XPRIZE, through the international competition, hopes to be able to reach more adults, who lack basic literacy skills, than can be reached with traditional place-based tutoring. "More than 36 million adults in the U.S. lack basic English literacy, yet only five percent have access to educational services," says Shlomy Kattan, executive director of the Adult Literacy XPRIZE.

In order to recruit adult learners to try the apps, XPRIZE is organizing an international competition where teams of community organizations will compete for \$1 million dollars in prizes while they design applications for the competition and then begin to carry out their plans to promote the competition and involve adult learners in using the apps.

The apps, that will be distributed free of charge to adult learners, were developed in 2015 the first phase of Adult Literacy XPRIZE, where 109 teams from 15 countries engaged in a competition to create the apps. Five finalists have been selected and the apps are currently being field tested over a 15-month period on 12,000 adult learners. The field test concluded in October of this year. The winning team, with the

**continued on page 8**

### WHY VOTE?

**continued from page 3**

that they hate to bottom of their souls – democracy. Vote because you want democracy to be real and not just an empty slogan. Vote because you are a citizen and being a citizen demands action.

Vote because you are not one of those poor suckers who bitch and complain about things but do nothing to change those things. Vote for those who cannot vote and have no voice.

Vote because it is a thumb in the eye of those who want to play god.

Vote because they want you to think that you do not matter, that your wishes do not matter, and that your dreams do not matter. Vote because it is an act of rebellion. Vote because it really pisses off those who want to turn this country into a tyranny.

Not voting says that you are a nobody. Be a somebody. Vote. Randy Cunningham is a Steering Committee member of the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus. His book *Democratizing Cleveland: The rise and fall of community organizing in Cleveland OH 1975-1985* has just been republished by Belt Publishing.

# Ask A Stylist

by Silk Allen  
Dear Lady Silk,

I'm a thirty-nine-year old man that likes to go out with my girlfriend and I have a hard time understanding what clothing styles work best for me. I'm not trying to dress super flashy like the young guys I see with the loud tight shirts and jeans, but I am also not ready to wear my pants up to my chest with high socks and suspenders either. How do I achieve the proper balance of not dressing too young or too old for my age? *Modern but not like Migos*

Dear Mod,

I'm glad that you have not succumbed to the pressure of dressing like an out of touch rapper, or like your old uncle Bob, as so many men your age tend to do. Your twenties were the perfect time to experiment with fashion, but your thirties and beyond are all about fit and style. You should rely less on trends and more on the quality, design, color, fit and fabric when it comes to building your wardrobe.

When you go out with your girl, you want a look that reads as confident and classic so stick to clothes that offer a sleek and dark silhouette like a black pima cotton t-shirt and jacket with a pair of dark jeans and leather sneakers for a night out at the bar or a lightly patterned dress shirt, gray blazer and charcoal trousers for a dinner date. Your clothes should frame and skim your body not hug or drown you, so make sure you take three sizes (the current size you wear and a size up and down from that) with you to the fitting room until you know what looks best on your body type. Use the following list as a shopping guide for a very well edited wardrobe and you will easily be one of the best dressed men in any room you enter.

• **White Dress Shirt:** This top is versatile enough to wear under a suit for work, underneath a sweater with jeans for the weekend and tucked into a pair of chinos with a nice belt and shoes for a dressy casual look. Look for a thicker cotton and buy several if you can.

• **Collared Shirt:** Long and short sleeve button downs in solids or prints will help extend your wardrobe for work and after hours. They look good underneath a sports coat worn with chinos and casual shoes and work well with a pair of dark blue jeans and tennis shoes too. It's also a perfect layering piece for fall if you add a sweater or cardigan on top.

• **Casual Tops:** Leave the tie dye, logo heavy, message tees for the gym and invest in a few polo style shirts, Henley tops and cotton tees in a variety of colors. They can be worn with any style of pants and easily add color to your wardrobe. Black, white, gray and earth tones usually look good on everybody, but don't be afraid to experiment with deep colors like shades of red, blue, plum and charcoal.

• **Trousers:** Step your pants game up with a pair of black or navy chinos and khakis and see how much wear you will get out of them! Wear them with a shirt and sports coat or a Henley and bomber jacket. These pants are the perfect alternative to jeans.

• **Wool Dress Pants:** You can wear these pants with a patterned button down or with a sweater and blazer on top for any upcoming holiday parties you may attend. They are a great balance between casual and formal.

• **Jeans and Joggers:** I'm not telling you to get rid of your oversize, faded and holey jeans and stretched out, bleach stained ratty sweatpants-yes I am. You deserve better. Purchase a pair of quality jeans in a dark wash and slim (to your body) fit. Black jeans are also good to have on deck as well. It's OK to wear sweatpants sometimes (hey men have "fat" days too!) just don't rely on them and make sure they have some sort of shape. Layer a crew neck sweater over one of your tees and add your tennis shoes.

• **Sweaters, Jackets and Blazers:** Ditch the hoodie or just wear them to the gym and around the house. When you step out, a crew neck sweater, cardigan, blazer or bomber style jacket will keep you just as warm, are one hundred percent more stylish and looks more mature when worn with jeans.

• **Sneakers:** Leave the wild bright colors and bulky shapes to the younger guys and try a classic pair like the Adidas Stan Smith sneakers or any other streamlined style that would look great with your polo top and trousers or patterned short sleeve dress shirt and jeans.

• **Dress and Casual Shoes:** Black and/or brown oxfords will work with your suits and any other dressier attire. Casual leather and loafer style shoes look great with chinos and trousers and choose from a chukka,



Silk Allen

desert or Chelsea style boot when you want to be comfortable but still give a nice fall look.

• **Suit:** You should have a few suits by now, if not start with your basic colors- navy, black and gray and then expand by weights, texture and patterns like tweeds and plaids. Don't be afraid to mix and match by breaking your suits up and wearing the jackets with other pants and the pants with a nice shirt and tie combo.

• **Extras:** Purchase a black and a brown belt, go wild with socks, pocket squares, ties, and bowties as far as color and pattern, but be sure to get your standard solid colors as well. Make sure that you have an overcoat of some sort that will fit over your suit and blazer. Parkas and pea-coats work for casual wear and can be layered for when the temperature drops. Invest in a good overnight bag and wallet for travel and keeping your cards and money safe. Buy an umbrella on purpose so you don't get soaked or have to pick up whatever is available at the drugstore. Splurge on skincare, eyewear, a tailor and a signature cologne, because they are the seemingly small things that will pull your entire look together and make you stylish at any age.

As always, I'm here with answers to any of your style questions, so don't hesitate to email me [ladysilk@thehouseoffly.com](mailto:ladysilk@thehouseoffly.com) and put "Ask A Stylist" in the subject line!



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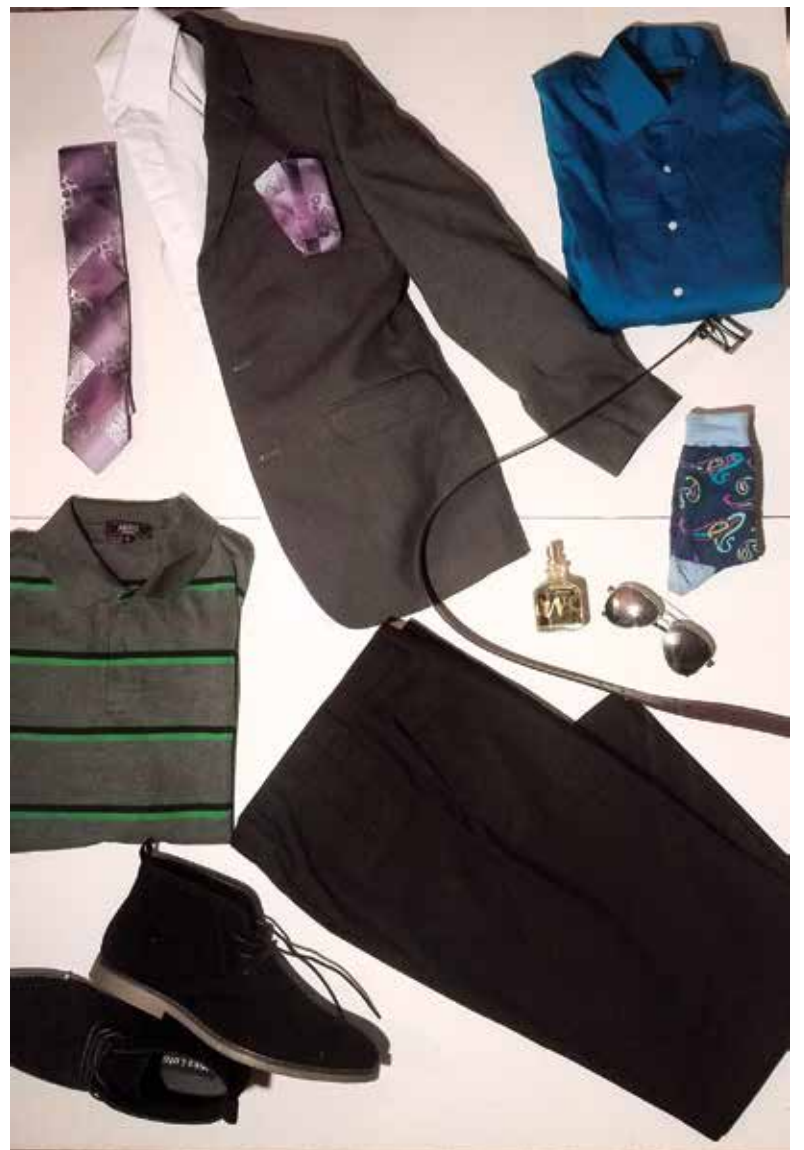


PHOTO BY SILK ALLEN

October 21, 2018: Menswear flat lay styled by Silk Allen. Men of any age can build a stylish wardrobe around basic separates like the ones seen here. A polo style shirt, a white dress shirt, gray blazer, solid color button down, a pair of black slacks, casual shoes and accessories like ties, belts, pocket squares sunglasses and cologne can all be mixed and matched to create a look for any occasion!



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

October 20, 2018; Fulton at Bridge Avenue: The Carnegie West Branch of the Cleveland Public Library reopened after the being closed for repairs as part of the Cleveland Public Library's system-wide capital project. The changes include work on ADA accessibility, HVAC systems, mechanical units, roof and fire alarms.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

continued from page one

on individual schools more readily available to the public.

At the meeting, the Board of Education passed a resolution is-

suing a report to the State of Ohio describing the CMSD's performance in the 2017-18 school year. In the report, three schools were listed as high performing. Six schools were listed as mid performing. Fifty-eight schools were listed as low perform-

ing. Ninety-four schools were listed as failing. Three schools were listed as not rated.

At the Board meeting, a woman addressed the Cleveland Board of Education concerning the lack of after school programs for middle school students.

Retired CMSD teacher Gene Tracy followed up the woman's comments noting that once again this year, CMSD and Mayor Frank Jackson had allowed a million dollars

**St. Rocco Parishioner Frankie Galizio named October 2018 Community Partner of the Month**

In its October edition, *The Partner*, the newsletter of the Community Police Foundation announced that Frankie Galizio of St. Rocco's Parish is the October 2018 Community Police Foundation Partner of the Month for his unselfish dedication to those in need.

In the last five years, Frankie Galizio has hosted and helped organize five Cops for Causes reverse raffles as well as selling a large portion of tickets for each event. Proceeds from the sale of tickets go to outreach efforts of Cleveland Police officers. Outreach events include providing cribs for infants, Christmas presents and parties for struggling families, or

donations toward helping those in need. The money donated to Cops for Kids programs and to the Cleveland Police Foundation has helped fulfill their mission of creating a better relationship between police and the community.

The Community Police Foundation newsletter, *The Partner*, noted the Cleveland Police Foundation expression of thanks to its community partners, "We truly appreciate the privilege of being able to help a family in need or a resident through tough times. We owe a great deal of thanks to Frank Galizio and all the volunteers from St. Rocco Parish who help us help others!"

**First District Patrol Officer Louis Kitko named October 2018 Police Officer of the Month**

In its October edition, *The Partner*, the newsletter of the Community Police Foundation announced that First District Patrol Officer Louis Kitko was named October 2018 Community Police Foundation Police Officer

of the Month. Officer Kitko, a 20-year veteran officer, always has badges, coloring books, and child identification kits on hand in the First District lobby to pass out to children who stop by with their

continued on page 7

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of the abatement, it was promised that \$2 million per year from those taxes would be given to the CMSD for after school programs. In 2009, the amount was reduced by Mayor Jackson by \$1 million and the students have been shortchanged ever since, says Tracy.

Elizabeth Coles, whose grandchild attends Tremont Montessori school, said she believes the Tremont Montessori is being set up for failure. She said, students are supposed to be allowed to enter a Montessori program only in kindergarten, however at Tremont Montessori students are entering the program as late as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She also noted the disparity of resources from one CMSD school to another. She said while at Orchard we are celebrating every student having an ipad, at Tremont Montessori "you can walk into a classroom and not find a single computer of any kind." She also mentioned a number of building maintenance issues at Tremont Montessori that have not been attended to.

Another parent, who has a child at Paul Dunbar School, said while she appreciates the new school and its working air conditioning, she had gone with students on an outing to Fullerton School in Slavic Village. She said the Fullerton School building was dilapidated. She said the disparity between Dunbar School and Fullerton School shocked her and made her wonder how the CMSD budget works. CMSD CEO Gordon said that Fullerton is scheduled to have a new school open soon.

The parent also called for CMSD to begin offering foreign language in elementary schools when children's ability to absorb a new language is at a high level.

Don Freeman, speaking on behalf of the Cleveland Education Committee, said, that while CMSD has cancelled its Investment School Program and replaced it with a Redesign School Program, some of the same issues are still cropping up in the Redesign Schools that are former Investment Schools. He said teachers are experiencing stress in those schools and he urged CEO Eric Gordon to make it a priority to personally "hear the concerns from teachers in former investment schools." Freeman urged action, saying on behalf of the Cleveland Education Committee, "We do not want the same injustices and failures to persist in the Redesign Schools that happened in the Investment Schools."

## It's Medicare open enrollment season: Here is what you need to know...

by Janet Trautwein

Medicare's Annual Election Period is here. Seniors are choosing their Medicare plans for 2019. They'll have to make their selections by December 7 for coverage that takes effect January 1.

The enrollment process will be different than previous years. This time, seniors will have the chance to "test-drive" plans at the beginning of the year -- and select a different plan if their initial choice doesn't meet their budgetary or healthcare needs. That flexibility will ensure that Medicare meets the needs of its beneficiaries better than ever before.

Medicare covers about 60 million Americans. Seniors become eligible for all of the program's components -- Parts A, B, C, and D -- when they turn 65.

Part A pays for hospital stays. Part B covers doctor visits, same-day surgeries, and potent medications administered in physicians' offices. Part D is Medicare's optional prescription drug benefit.

Part C, also known as Medicare Advantage is administered by private insurance carriers and places a cap on the out-of-pocket expenses not available on Parts A and B of Original Medicare. Part C typically includes the prescription drug benefit at no additional cost.

More than 20 million Americans are enrolled in 2,300 different Medicare Advantage plans, each with its own mix of benefits, monthly premiums, copays, and out-of-pocket spending.

Deciding on a plan can be tricky. Beneficiaries must consider lifestyle factors, how much they can afford to spend, and what their future health needs may be.

In recent years, Congress didn't make those decisions easier. Since 2011, seniors who chose a Medicare Advantage plan had 45 days to "disenroll" if it wasn't right for them. But their only alternative was enrolling in traditional Medicare.

Thankfully, that won't be the case anymore. Next year, beneficiaries who enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan will have the ability to switch to another Advantage plan at any point within the first three months of 2019. The change gives seniors much more flexibility and can make open enrollment less stressful.

Seniors may find all these options empowering -- and overwhelming. Fortunately, help is available.

Medicare.gov contains a wealth of information that can offer assistance to beneficiaries.

Seniors can consult licensed

## OFFICER OF THE MONTH

continued from page 6

parents. He recently reached out to the Cleveland Police Foundation and personally purchased over \$600 in Cleveland Police teddy bears to pass out while on duty. Whenever Cops for Kids has a fundraising event, Officer Lou volunteers to sell tickets and helps support and promote the events.

First District Commander Daniel Fay said, "Officer Kitko represents some of the essential traits of every police officer: he's community-oriented, has a great work ethic, integrity, he's a problem-solver and is service-minded. He is always willing to go the extra mile to assist a fellow officer or citizen in their time of need. Officer Kitko is an asset to the First District and the Cleveland Division of Police."

The Cleveland Police Foundation and Cops for Kids recognized Patrol Officer Lou Kitko as Officer of the Month for his efforts in creating a better relationship between the Cleveland Police officers and the children it serves.

health insurance agents and brokers. Many have decades of experience and are specially trained to educate consumers. Nearly three-quarters of agents and brokers spend a significant portion of their time explaining coverage to clients and investigating consumer insurance options.

Agents and brokers can help seniors determine which Medicare Advantage plan would be best for them -- or whether they'd be better off enrolling in traditional Medicare.

Those who live in a FEMA-declared disaster area during the Annual Election Period may qualify for a Special Election Period outside of the normal enrollment window. Seniors can ask an insurance professional if a Special Election Period has been announced.

Medicare covers nearly one in five Americans. This open enrollment season, that population will find that they have more choices -- and more flexibility. Savvy seniors should take advantage.

Editor's Note: Janet Trautwein is CEO of the National Association of Health Underwriters ([www.nahu.org](http://www.nahu.org)).

## COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

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.

**THE PREVENTIVE CARE CENTER** at Metropolitan Campus of Cuyahoga Community College provides low-cost health care services to 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 thru November 15. It is located in Room 105 of the Health Careers and Sciences Building at 2900 Community College Ave. For more information visit: [www.tri-c.edu/carecenter](http://www.tri-c.edu/carecenter).

**GAMBLING PROBLEM:** If you or someone you know has a gambling problem call the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline at 800-589-9966.

**IMMUNIZATIONS FOR CHILDREN:** Get immunizations at McCafferty Health Center, 4242 Lorain Avenue, at no cost to you. Times: Every Monday from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.; every 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 8-11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.; every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 4-7 p.m. No appointment needed. Walk-ins accepted on first come, first served basis. Bring shot record or letter for school and Medicaid card (if applicable). Vaccinations are available for children who are uninsured, underinsured, or who have Medicaid. For more information call 664-4120 or visit the Cleveland Health Department website at: [www.clevelandhealth.org](http://www.clevelandhealth.org).

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### PARENTING

**SUICIDE PREVENTION BEGINS WITH AWARENESS AND EDUCATION: THE PARENT RESOURCE PROGRAM** of the Jason Foundation is a web-based program designed specifically for parents. For more information visit the Parent Resource Program website at:



PHOTO BY JULIA VAN WAGENEN

February 27, 2018; Lake Avenue between W. 87<sup>th</sup> and Clifton: The Lake Avenue Bridge features cast iron artwork designed by the bridge's architect Frederick Striebing. Construction of the Lake Avenue Railroad Bridge was completed in 1912. Cast iron pieces have been breaking off the bridge. Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge would see the historic structure ultimately be fully restored. Norfolk Southern Railroad and the City of Cleveland jointly are responsible for the care and maintenance of the bridge.

<http://prp.jasonfoundation.com>

### POLITICAL ACTION

**NORTHERN OHIOANS FOR BUDGET LEGISLATION EQUALITY'S (NOBLE'S) 2018 STATE BUDGET PLATFORM MEETING:** Saturday, November 10, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Neighborhood Connections in the Agora Theatre building at 5000 Euclid Avenue. Parking in the rear of the building.

**WESTSIDE HOMELESS CONGRESS:** Make your voice heard each 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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.

### 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

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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](http://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](http://www.ravelry.com/groups/warm-up-cleveland). For more information contact Outreach and Programming Services at 216-623-2921 or visit: [www.cpl.org](http://www.cpl.org).

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### 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.

**TEEN SUICIDE: LEARN THE WARNING SIGNS AND RISK FACTORS** that may contribute to youth suicide by using the free online staff development training for teachers & others who work & interact with youth on suicide awareness and prevention. The online staff development trainings offered by The Jason Foundation introduce the scope & magnitude of the problem of youth suicide on both the national & state level. It discusses the educator's relationship that allows them to recognize when the youth are struggling or changing and how to respond. For more information & a list of the warning signs & risk factors that can elevate the possibility of suicidal ideations visit The Jason Foundation at: [www.jasonfoundation.com](http://www.jasonfoundation.com).

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

October 19, 2018; Lake Avenue Bridge, Lake Avenue between W. 87<sup>th</sup> and Clifton: (L-R) Julia Van Wagenen and Bobbi Reichtell prepare a concrete mix to apply to cracks in the underside of the Lake Avenue Bridge. Van Wagenen and Reichtell said thanks go to Chris Cardina of General Preventive Masonry for giving them a lesson in mixing, patching and floating before they started their work.

## LAKE AVENUE BRIDGE

continued from page one

been attending long and short-term planning meetings. The group includes: Nikki Hudson, Julia Van Wagenen, Ted Ferringer, Morgan Taggart, Anne Armstrong, Michael Armstrong, Bobbi Reichtell and Gary McNamara. In addition to the core group, Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge has additional supporters who have helped with clean-ups, donated funds and joined the group's Facebook page.

Last winter Van Wagenen filed a complaint with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) which resulted in a follow-up inspection of the bridge. PUCO Inspector Randy Johr contacted the owners of the bridge, Norfolk Southern Railroad, and the railroad sent out a Hi-lift vehicle to remove decorative steel pieces and loose concrete and clear the sidewalk beneath the bridge of debris. In the follow-up to the complaint, Inspector Johr informed Van Wagenen that the railroad advised him that "no major rehab plan for the bridge was scheduled."

However, a major rehab plan for the bridge is exactly what Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge would like to see. Hudson has researched the history of the bridge using resources at the Western Reserve Historical Society and other sources. She found that back in the early 1900s, residents of her neighborhood pushed the City of Cleveland and the railroad to replace two narrow, dark and dangerous tunnels under the railroad tracks that were shared by trolley cars, early automobiles and pedestrians. The residents wanted a bridge that would allow for a wider street. The City of Cleveland rejected the first design for the bridge, and the city and residents pushed for a more suitable design for an area near the Lake Avenue entranceway to Edgewater Park.

Hudson, through her research found that "local architect Frederick Striebing was hired to design an artistic bridge that was more in line with the City Beautiful movement." Hudson learned that Striebing was both an artist and an architect and had attended the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Hudson said Striebing added an artistic element to the bridge – the wrought iron artwork that still decorates the bridge today.

Hudson's research notes that the ornamentation cost an additional \$10,000, with 65% of that cost born by the railroad and 35% born by the city of Cleveland. She also learned that through an agreement between the railroad and the city of Cleveland, both entities bear responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of the bridge. The construction of the bridge was completed in 1912.

Hudson and Van Wagenen say, Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge would like to see the historical architectural elements of the bridge preserved. The group hopes to place the bridge on the National Register of Historic Places.

Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge would like the railroad to address a major drainage problem on top of the bridge and repair leaks in the bridge walls. They would like the bridge to be cleaned, restored and strengthened. Their hope is for the area under the bridge and the surrounding area to be a safe place to walk and ride a bicycle.

So far Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge have engaged in a number of clean-ups of the area under and around the bridge. They have removed graffiti from the bridge; have developed plans for public art and landscaping around the bridge; and spoke to nearby property owners such as Cleveland Metroparks, Don's Lighthouse, McNamara's Pub, and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District about ways they can collaborate.

The group advocated for light bulbs to be replaced under the bridge, a request which Cleveland Public Power has responded to. The City of Cleveland also agree to place a trash bin on the Northeast end of the bridge and empty it once a week. Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge agreed to monitor the can and empty it if it is overflowing between city pick-ups.

With the help of IOBY, Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge raised \$9,000 for their efforts. Half of that amount came from matching funds from the Cleveland Climate Action Fund. Hudson and Van Wagenen said Ward 15 Councilman Matt Zone has agreed to match the funds they raise to assist their efforts.

A Neighboring Grant of \$250 from Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization secured by Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge

## ADULT LITERACY

continued from page 5

app and with the best performance, will receive a \$3 million prize. Two additional prizes of \$1 million each will be awarded to the two teams with the best performance among two different groups of learners – native English speakers and English language learners.

The Communities Competition will feature a total of \$1 million in prizes. According to the rules for the competition, \$500,000 of that amount will be awarded to teams that submit the "the most innovative, feasible and scalable plans" in the applications that they submit. \$10,000 will be awarded to each of the fifty teams that submit the best proposals. The awards will be given to the fifty winning teams in March of 2019.

The applications for the competition are due by December 21, 2018. In the Greater Cleveland area, the Literacy Cooperative has formed a team and is recruiting other community organizations involved with adult literacy to join their team. Director of Career Pathways Engagement for the Literacy Cooperative Laureen Atkins says the organization is recruiting foundations, organizations and individuals to work together on the project as one team.

Currently, she says, a core team is working on an application explaining how the team will make use of the

apps to increase access to education for adult learners.

Once teams are entered in the competition, the teams will be competing for an additional \$500,000 in prizes that will be awarded to the teams that recruit the most adult learners to download and use the apps. Elise Corbett, an Associate at Ceisler Media and Issue Advocacy, and a spokesperson for XPRIZE says, "XPRIZE's method of ensuring that the apps are reaching the appropriate population is tracking the amount of time users download and use the app – if a learner uses the app on at least three separate days, then that person is most likely a low literate adult and benefiting from the technology."

Teams in this deployment phase of the competition will compete in three tiers for a share of an additional \$500,000 in prizes. Teams, according to the rules, must register for one of three tiers in the competition. Teams in the first tier must have a minimum of 5,000 downloads of the app by adult learners. The teams in this tier are competing for a \$350,000 prize. Teams in the second tier must have at least 1,500 downloads and are competing for a \$100,000 prize. Teams in the third tier have no minimum number of downloads and will compete for a \$50,000 prize.

The winning team in each category is the team with the largest number of people downloading the app and using it on three separate days.

Ceisler says each team will have a code they can give to all partners in the team for the adult learners they recruit to use when they sign on to use the free app.

The Literacy Cooperative team will be competing in the first tier that requires recruiting of at least 5,000 adult learners, says Atkins. The prize in that category for the winning team is \$350,000. Atkins says if the Greater Cleveland team wins the competition, a decision will have to be made on how to best use the prize.

Atkins says thus far, participants forming the Greater Cleveland team, come from Cuyahoga, Lorain and Summit Counties. She says the majority of the participants are currently from Cuyahoga County. Atkins says in Cuyahoga County alone there are an estimated 435,000 adults with reading or math levels below an eighth-grade level. Those are individuals that adult literacy organizations on the team will be targeting for participation in the international competition organized by XPRIZE.

The competition will run between April and August of 2019. Organizations or individuals wishing to learn more about the Literacy Cooperative and how to become part of their team in the XPRIZE Competition can call Laureen Atkins at the Literacy Cooperative at 216-776-6185. For more information about XPRIZE and the competition visit <https://adultliteracy.xprize.org>.

resulted in a one-day Art in the Park program this summer where neighborhood children engaged in making art in the shape of fish to scan and print on aluminum panels. The program was led by Julia Van Wagenen. In late October, Van Wagenen installed the blue and white panels on the fence on Viking Court, by the Don's Lighthouse parking area.

The group also plans to plant native plants on and behind the fence on Viking Court. Don's Lighthouse, which purchased the property from the railroad a number of years ago, is collaborating in this project.

On Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge members Julia Van Wagenen and Bobbi Reichtell used some concrete mix to repair a wall on the Southeast corner of the bridge. Reichtell thanked Chris Cardina of General Preventive Masonry for giving them lessons so they could patch the wall.

While Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge plan to paint the portion of the wall they are repairing, they also hope their work will show the City of Cleveland and Norfolk Southern Railroad that the neighbors care about the bridge. Van Wagenen said that estimates to fix the concrete on the bridge are over \$30,000. She said, "The idea is to start one small part. We are starting something for people to see. Hopefully, Norfolk Southern and the City of Cleveland will step up and complete the job."

Hudson and Van Wagenen said when streetscape plans for Lake Avenue were being developed, Anita Brindza of Cudell Improvement told them she hoped the bridge would be included. However, because the bridge is owned by Norfolk Southern, it has not been included in the planned streetscape for Lake Avenue.

Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge would also like the area around the bridge to be made safer for pedestrians and cyclists. They note there is no crosswalk on Lake Avenue between W. 74<sup>th</sup> and four-way intersection by the entrance to the Shoreway. They said over two years ago at a block club meeting, neighbors were promised there would be a crosswalk placed at W. 85<sup>th</sup> and Lake Avenue. They would like to see more crosswalks on Lake Avenue and perhaps some speed bumps and pedestrian crossing signs.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

October 19, 2018; Lake Avenue Bridge, Lake Avenue between W. 87<sup>th</sup> and Clifton: Julia Van Wagenen and Bobbi Reichtell, members of the group Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge, fill cracks in the wall under the bridge. Van Wagenen and Reichtell hope that when the City of Cleveland and Norfolk Southern Railroad see the involvement of residents and their work to fix the bridge, they will step up and finish the repairs.

Currently, in order to use a crosswalk going to Edgewater Park, pedestrians must use the only crosswalk at the dangerous corner by the Shoreway where Lake, Clifton, Baltic and the Shoreway intersect, said Hudson and Van Wagenen. They said a memorial sits on that corner where a cyclist was killed a couple of years ago.

Once across that intersection, a pedestrian has to go down a sidewalk, next to the Shoreway entrance, to get to the tunnel going to Edgewater Park and the multipurpose trail. Van Wagenen said she would like to see a guardrail, or a barrier placed along that sidewalk to prevent cars entering the Shoreway from jumping the curb and hitting a pedestrian or cyclist.

Hudson and Van Wagenen say they feel that when the West Shore-

way project was planned, "they totally disregarded our neighborhood." While the plan was supposed to increase access to Edgewater Park, significant barriers in their neighborhood, to safely access the park, still exist.

Recent news in mid-October, that the City of Cleveland was doing more work on the W. 76<sup>th</sup> pedestrian tunnel to Edgewater, made them feel left out again, wondering when the City of Cleveland will respond to their requests for improved access to Edgewater in their neighborhood, and the restoration of the Lake Avenue Bridge.

**Editor's Note:** Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge plan a Bridge Beautification Day on Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Weather permitting, the group plans to meet at the bridge at 1 p.m.