



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
 Thursday, December 6, 2018; Ohio City Neighborhood Vision Community Meeting, Franklin Circle Church, 1688 Fulton Road: Ohio City Incorporated Executive Director Tom McNair speaks to residents before they begin to share their concerns and ideas for the future of the neighborhood. About eighty people participated in the meeting.

Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Ohio City Inc hosts Neighborhood Vision Community Meeting

by Chuck Hoven

About eighty Ohio City residents gathered at Franklin Circle Church on December 6th for the first of three community meetings designed to gather input toward creating an Ohio City Neighborhood Vision.

At the beginning of the meeting Ward 3 Councilman Kerry McCormack said the Ohio City Neighborhood Vision Process hope to “capture things really important to

you so we can set an agenda for the future.” He asked residents to record their thoughts, opinions, concerns to create an emotional and thoughtful vision of the neighborhood. McCormack asked those in attendance to let them know of others that need a call or visit so they can “cast as wide a net as possible in a balanced and equitable way for all our community members.”

Tom McNair, Executive Director of

Ohio City Incorporated introduced a design consultant that he said would help facilitate the process and develop the next steps in the process of developing design guidelines informed by the stakeholders.

Rather than directly addressing design and zoning concerns, those attending the meeting were given a list of neighborhood characteristics and asked to choose the five that were most important to them. They were also asked why they lived in the neighborhood; to list their favorite places in the neighborhood; to list what features or locations in the neighborhood they brag about; and to list what features would help to keep them living in the neighborhood for the next five, fifteen, or thirty years. Residents were also asked to consider what neighborhood links and city connections were important to them – where they go in the city and how they get there.

Ohio City Incorporated, which sponsored the meeting, also listed the names of 26 neighborhood residents on a Steering Committee which will also be engaged in developing design recommendations. The Steering Committee will meet prior to each of the scheduled community meetings. Two future Community Meetings are planned: one at Urban Community School on January 31st billed as an Interactive Design Charrette and one at St. Malachi continued on page 7



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, December 1, 2018; MetroHealth Main Campus, Outdoor Quad, MetroHealth Season to Celebrate sponsored by MetroHealth, Turner Construction and Ward 14 Councilwoman Jasmin Santana: Emerald Bay, age 5, visits with Santa.

Can our Cleveland neighborhoods find a way to have both amenities and economic diversity?

by Chuck Hoven

Residents of Ohio City, gathered to share their vision for the future of the neighborhood, made it clear they would like to see their neighborhood serve as a home for people of all income groupings. They also readily listed the amenities they like in their neighborhood and what attractions and services they would like to see available in the future.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Are the two visions compatible? A recent article in *CityLab* by Richard Florida titled “How Urban Core Amenities Drive Gentrification and Increase Inequality” says “a growing body of research by leading urban economists provides evidence that behind both the wealthy’s back-to-the-city movement and the spatial inequality it brings are the cluster of high-end amenities – like restaurants, theaters, concert halls, and other institutions that are uniquely available at the urban core of superstar cities.”

While the research Florida cites,

refers to superstar cities like New York and Boston, some Cleveland neighborhoods experience similar trends. In this issue of the *Plain Press*, Near West Side residents attend a meeting to learn how to challenge property tax increases that are unaffordable. A letter writer from the Southside (W. 12th in Tremont) says high property taxes may force her out of a home that has been in her family for a century. The letter writer notes the half million dollars houses and expensive apartments with 15-year tax abatements going up in her neighborhood. She believes that Community Development Corporations, rather than helping residents stay in their homes, end up benefiting from foreclosed properties by obtaining them and turning them over to developers for profit.

Florida’s article says, “As the affluent and educated move back downtown to take advantage of this unique bundle of amenities, they drive housing prices up, which hits

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Saturday, December 8, 2018; W. 6508 Detroit, Wintertide at Gordon Square: Stacey Pickering is one of four performing artists doing a Butoh-Inspired Performance Art Piece in the windows of the Cleveland Injury Center.

Residents seek information on how to challenge property tax assessments

by Bruce Checefsky

Jordan Perme and Chris Lees bought a one-family home on Literary Road in Tremont five and a half years ago. Their property tax assessment increased 17% over the next four years. This year alone, it increased more than 25%.

“I don’t think they did a thorough job with assessing the value,” said Lees. “Our house is much smaller than all the other houses on our block, yet they valued ours a lot

higher. The square foot assessment was higher than any other house on our block.”

“Our house is builder grade,” Perme added. “We’ve painted but everything is pretty much original. I doubt we can’t sell our house for what they set its value at.”

Home owners like Perme and Lees from Ohio City and Tremont, and as far away as Rocky River, flooded Franklin Circle Church for a December 13th meeting on re-

cent tax evaluations conducted by Citizens United For Fairness. Staff members from Cuyahoga County were on hand to explain how to challenge property tax assessments before the Cuyahoga County Board of Revision.

The meeting was contentious, with Cuyahoga County Board of Revision staff providing little relief to suffering home owners.

Former Congresswoman Mary continued on page 6



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Saturday, December 8, 2018; W. 67th and Detroit, Wintertide at Gordon Square: (L-R) Chelsea Cannon and Zyrece Montgomery of Talespinner Children’s Theatre welcome guests to the Wintertime Kid Zone at Near West Theatre.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, December 7, 2018; Westtown Winter Frolic, Halloran Park Skating Rink: Westtown Service Coordinator Evan Cheney passes out popcorn.

ARTS

BOP STOP TO EXHIBIT LOCAL ARTIST NO NUMBERS' CONCERT PHOTOGRAPHY:

Bop Stop, known for its live jazz music is hosting an exhibition of No Numbers work. A series of photographs of local and regional musicians entitled, *Proxy A Photo Exhibition By No Numbers*. The exhibit's opening night is on February 1, 2019 and runs for 90 days. No Numbers, is the artistic name for Arron Bound, who is an Ohio City, native and local artist working in Cleveland, who is taking a non-traditional approach to concert photography. Many of his pieces were modified with late 20th century photo editing software, to which some will have their visual effects amplified by 3D technology, while each is displayed in a repurposed frame. Several of the musicians and poets, who will ordain the walls of the Bop Stop will also perform on opening night.

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

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

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP): Assists eligible residents with home heating costs during the winter months. Call 1-800-282-0880.

EMERGENCY-HEAP: Provides heating assistance once during heating season to income eligible residents who have been disconnected. Call 216-350-8008 or make an appointment online at: <https://ceogc.itfrontdesk.com>

WATER AND SEWER AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM offers a 40% discount on water and sewer charges to Cleveland residents over age 65 with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level. Applications are available at www.chnhousingpartners.org. Call CHN Housing Partners at 888-901-1222 for more information

CITY OF CLEVELAND

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

COMMUNITY

CLEVELAND HISTORY CENTER offers Free Admission on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 21st, at the Western Reserve Historical Society, 10825 East Blvd.

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 Ave.

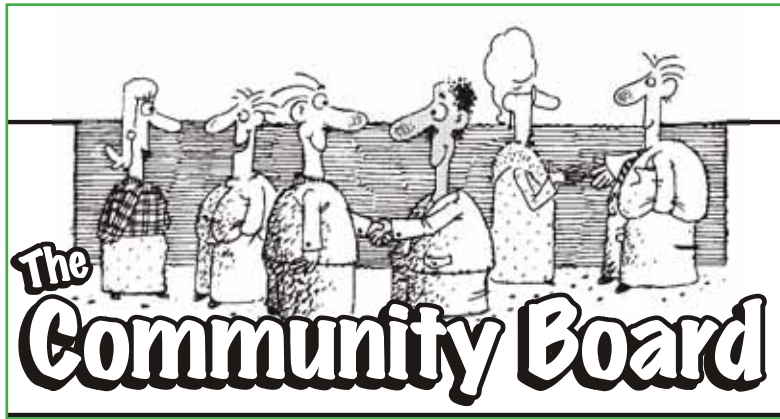
SECOND DISTRICT POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Applewood Center, 3518 W. 25th. Enter the gym from Daisy Avenue.

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.

EDUCATION

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT (CMSD) : Families of eighth grade students can explore CMSD's high school options at two community fairs in January. CMSD allows students to attend any high school as long as space is available and, in a few cases, they meet admissions criteria. Students and their families can explore options from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 23 at East Professional Center, 1349 E. 79th St. They will get another chance from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 30 at Max S. Hayes High School, 2211 W. 65th St. Parents and caregivers can select schools at choosecmsd.org through March 22. To improve the chances of getting their first choices, they should act as soon as possible. Starting Jan. 7, the portal also can be used to choose elementary schools. Lotteries will be held if sign-ups exceed capacity. Lottery results will be announced on April 1.

OHIO WEB LIBRARY, at ohioweblibrary.org, provides online web resources from Ohio libraries to all Ohio residents. Resources include articles from magazines and journals, business support, continuous learning, DIY resources and how-to guides, genealogy, homework



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.

help, reference and encyclopedias.

LEARN TO NAVIGATE THE INTERNET: Free computer class to teach basic computer skills and internet navigation. Set up an email account and establish an email address. Access Google, Youtube and many other popular websites. Classes are held each Thursday in January from 10am-11am at Oak Street Health, 10688 Lorain Avenue in the Westown Square Shopping Center.

WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES EVENING PROGRAM: Tuesday and Thursday evenings 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.

GARDENING

CLEVELAND SEED BANK will host a seed swap on January 26th from 2-4 p.m. at St. Patrick's Club Building at 3606 Bridge Avenue. Open to all with a suggested donation of \$5.00. No seeds required, but if you have them, please bring them.

HEALTH & SAFETY

CHAIR YOGA FOR SENIORS: Free chair yoga classes for seniors. Improve your balance, core strength and flexibility. Taught by Delinda Hupka of the West Park-Fairview YMCA. Class is held January 9th and 23rd from 11am-12 noon at Oak Street Health, 10688 Lorain Avenue in the Westown Square Shopping Center.

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

LEGAL ADVICE

NEED LEGAL HELP WITH YOUR JOB? Been paid late or not at all? Not received the minimum wage? Not received overtime pay? Not received your last pay



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, December 7, 2018; Westtown Winter Frolic, Halloran Park Skating Rink: This young ice skater is one of many that took advantage of the free skate rentals during Westtown's annual Winter Frolic.

**Attention Nonprofit Organizations
The Plain Press
will publish the Annual Community Guide
in the March 2019 Issue**

If you would like to place additional information in the Community Guide beyond your organization's name and phone number email Ed Tishel at plainpressads@yahoo.com for information on purchasing an ad in the guide. The deadline for placing an ad in the guide is February 20th.

check? Experienced unsafe working conditions? Had other employment-related problems. The Legal Aid's Wage Project can help. Call 888-817-3777 toll free to complete an application for legal services.

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES: Need immigration Help? Call Catholic Charities at 216-939-3769. Low cost immigration assistance for applications filed with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and representation in Immigration Court.]

POLITICAL ACTION

PEACE@THE PUB: REFUGEES IN CLEVELAND Tuesday, January 8th 7 p.m. at Market Garden Brewery 1947 W. 25th. Guest speaker is Mika Timura, community engagement & development specialist at US Together. For more information: peaceactioncleveland.org or 216-393-7986.

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.

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.

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

CITY YEAR CLEVELAND is accepting application from youth ages 18-25. Serving as a City Year AmeriCorps member is a complex and challenging, yet rewarding, year-long commitment. The role is designed to help students build the social-emotional and academic skills to achieve their goals. The responsibilities of the role range from leading after school programs and fostering students' positive belief in themselves to using data and analytics to build individualized success plans for students. For more information or to apply visit the City Year website at: cityyear.org.

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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Cleveland Lead Safe Network plans for lead safe ballot initiative

by Bruce Checefsky

Community activist Tazz Mays is impassioned about lead safe legislation. As a volunteer for the Cleveland Lead Safe Network, a small organization seeking to pass lead safe legislation in Cleveland, he's committed to getting enough petition signatures to place legislation on the ballot in the November 2019 election. CLSN expects to get 5,000 signatures but are aiming for 15,000, three times the amount needed to make the ballot initiative.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"If you get poisoned by lead, you're seven times more likely to go to jail," said Mays at a meeting of the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus Regional Meeting on December 1st at the Jefferson Branch of the Cleveland Public Library. "Getting lead poisoning is the equivalent to smoking a pack of cigarettes a day for life. Lead poisoning stays in your system. It's harmful to all your major organs including your kidneys and respiratory system," Mays added.

Sections of Cleveland rank near the top of the list of the most dangerous lead hotspots in America, a recent Reuters study revealed.

The New York Times reported in 2016 that the unsafe elevated levels

of lead were detectable in 14.2 percent of children in Cleveland, more than double that of Flint, Michigan, following the disastrous drinking water tragedy where levels peaked at 7 percent. Children who experience lead poisoning often have cognitive and behavioral development issues and lower educational attainment.

Research has shown that following the banned use of lead-based paint in residential structures and environments by Congress in 1978, the murder rate in several major cities started to decline.

"Crime dropped in half because we banned lead," said Mays. "It's really that simple."

Mays attempted to meet with City Council on several occasions to outline a proposal for lead safe legislation.

"I honestly don't know why Cleveland hasn't passed legislation," he said. "We've talked to every single member of City Council with no results. I even gave testimony in front of City Council. Ward 8 Councilman Jeff Johnson introduced legislation in 2016. They didn't even have a hearing on it."

Congress enacted Title X of the Public Health Service Act of 1970, **continued on page 4**

Southside resident fears losing longtime family home

To the editor:

My family has made Tremont/or the Southside our home for over 100 years. We have had 17 family members born from this home. This is our generational home. My parents, my mother being the eldest, had the birthright of living in the vacant apartment when they were married. I had two siblings born here. My mother was conceived, born, raised her family and died here. Our home was central base for all family occasions, births, deaths, weddings, etc., and the family members knew to come here first for any and all information.

LETTER

I am the only one left from the family to be living in this home. A single over 55, retired, female, on a fixed income. Our taxes have been affordable, my grandparents paid \$.35 cents a month, during the Great Depression, to keep the house. At this time, myself and many other low income, minority, and senior property owners will be forced out of their generational homes due to high evaluations to our properties and the large tax increases in about two years. All while at the same time developers push five-hundred-thousand-dollar homes or large apartment complexes catering to affluent clients, while pushing full 15-year

tax abatement. How is it fair that a developer that builds a 90 plus unit apartment building gets away with no taxes on the building for 15 years, only the land value? Meanwhile my taxes went up from \$542.00 a year to over \$2,900.00 a year. I live well below the federal poverty level.

Daily, I receive letters, post cards, etc. from predatory realtors and developers to sell my property well below market price. We are being subjected to systemic gentrification and singled out within a perfect storm to eventually be foreclosed on. While Community Development Corporations (CDC) end up getting the properties and turning them over to developers for more profits. CDC's should not exist anymore in the City. Especially when they allow developers and agents to sit on their Board of Directors.

Does the City or County have answers for us? Are there safeguards put into place for the cast-off elderly among us? Is there somewhere safe for us to live our out our years? I still have a lot of living in me. Where will I go? A resident of the 65 and over community on Fulton was just assaulted and robbed as he walked out of his apartment, just blocks from the Second District Police Station. What will become of us?

Carol, W. 12th Street Property Owner
Last name withheld upon request



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, December 15, 2018; 3764 Pearl Road, at the corner of Pearl and Archwood, the new home of the Brookside Family Center: Russell Arnold, who is currently homeless, stands outside the building that will be the new home of the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Brookside Hunger Center. The new facility hosted an open house on December 22nd.

Brookside Family Center to open at new location

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) is pleased to announce the organization's purchase of 3764 W. 25th Street for a new Brookside Family Center. The two-story, 13,000 square-foot facility (which previously housed a medical clinic) will provide additional space for the Society to expand its social services for individuals and families in the area.

This new space houses the relocated Brookside Hunger Center (formerly located at 3802 Pearl Road, Cleveland), with hours of operation being Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The building will also feature a resale thrift shop, offering gently used clothing, toys and household items. The purchase of the building was made possible

thanks to The Schultz Fund, an endowed fund held by SVDP and created by the late Dwight Schultz, a resident of Clark/Fulton neighborhood of Cleveland.

John Patton, executive director of Cleveland Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, explains, "The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is deeply grateful to Mr. Schultz for his transformative gift...We are honored that Mr. Schultz recognized the vital role that St. Vincent de Paul plays in the community and chose our organization as the vehicle for his legacy gift."

"Having served this community for a number of years," Patton continues, "our organization feels that we truly have our finger on the pulse of the neighborhood, and we

are positioned to be responsive to its emergent needs while creating long-term solutions."

Currently, renovations are underway to welcome new tenants to the second floor of the building. These tenants' health and human-service oriented missions align closely with the mission of SVDP, which is to serve those in need with compassion, dignity and generosity. SVDP looks forward to sharing more information regarding these new partnerships in January 2019.

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Saturday, December 8, 2018; W. 65th and Detroit, Wintertide at Gordon Square: Wintertide volunteer Bernie Rose spends some time with her grandkids and family before her shift. They are enjoying some smores. Featured are: Bernie Rose, Mason Westwood, Madison Westwood, Rick Westwood, Heather Westwood, and Rick Westwood, Sr.

St. Ignatius of Antioch's new pastor, Rev. Fr. Kevin Estabrook, invites all to "Come Home"

by Victoria Shea

First time pastor, Rev. Fr. Kevin Estabrook's message to the community of St. Ignatius of Antioch Church at West Boulevard and Lorain Avenue is a simple one – "come home."

"If there are any parishioners or folks from the neighborhood who haven't been to church in a while, we're here to be a spiritual home for the community," Estabrook said. "So, I'd like to extend the invitation to people who may be away from the church to come back-- to come home and rediscover the truth, goodness and beauty of the parish."

Estabrook, a diocesan priest since 2009, grew up in Madison, Ohio, a village in Lake County. Although serving as an altar server at Immaculate Conception in Madison, Estabrook wrote in his biography that it was during his freshman year of college at John Carroll University that he began to consider the priesthood.

"But, during my freshman year, I began to seriously consider what God was calling me to do with my life and how I could best serve Him," Estabrook wrote. "My pastor, Fr. Luidi Miola encouraged me to visit the seminary. I attended a vocation program here at our Diocesan Seminary back in the Spring of 2011...and it was "love-at-first-sight. I entered Borromeo Seminary in the Fall of 2001 as a college sophomore."

Ordained in 2009 by former diocesan bishop, Richard Lennon, Estabrook served assignments at Saint Columbkille Parish and Holy Family Parish in Parma; Saint Angla Merici Parish in Fairview Park and Saint Clare Parish in Lyndhurst.

Estabrook said, his that having expressed an interest in becoming a pastor, led to Bishop Nelson Perez appointing him to St. Ignatius.

"I had expressed my openness to become a pastor," Estabrook said. "This was a direct appointment after Fr. Michael Troha [former St. Ignatius of Antioch pastor] was assigned to Immaculate Conception in Willoughby, and I got a call. So, it was kind of a surprise that I was appointed here."

Installed as the tenth pastor of St. Ignatius of Antioch on the eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 7, Estabrook expressed how excited he was to take part in the future of St. Ignatius.

"I have been very warmly received," Estabrook said. "Everyone has been extremely warm and welcoming."

Having been to the church once, Estabrook said that while he didn't know anyone directly associated with the parish, throughout the years, he has heard many former parishioners speak of the parish.

"I had known some parishioners," Estabrook said. "Many people have moved

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CLEVELAND LEAD SAFE NETWORK

continued from page 3

adding the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Program (Section 1018 of Title X) in 1992.

Federal law requires that a landlord must disclose any known lead-based paint hazards on the premises. If a rental property was built prior to 1978, a landlord must supply tenants with a lead-based paints disclosure form and a copy of the US EPA's "Protect Your Family from Lead in the Home" educational pamphlet. The lease must also include a lead warning statement confirming that the landlord complied with lead disclosure laws.

Landlords in violation of Title X can be fined up to \$10,000 for each violation.

The majority of Ohio's lead laws are reactive as opposed to preventative in that the State is under few obligations to act to address lead hazards until after a child has suffered lead poisoning and that lead poisoning has been confirmed by a blood test.

Neither Federal or State law require a landlord to do anything if lead paint is actually found.

"One of the reasons for City Council dragging their feet on legislation, it's suspected that many members own properties," Mays said. "They're not interested in making any more work or expenses for themselves. That's a major problem."

According to the EPA, professional lead-based paint removal costs about \$8 to \$15 per square foot or about \$9,600 to \$30,000 for a 1,200 to 2,000-sq. ft. house. The average removal project costs about \$10,000.

In 2012, the City of Cleveland lost a \$2 million United States Department of Housing and Urban Development grant for cleaning hazardous lead paint and dust from homes because officials failed to spend the federal money in a timely manner.

HUD awarded Cleveland a \$3.4 million grant in 2017 to "reduce the number of children with ele-

vated blood lead levels, and protect nearly 7,600 families living in homes with significant lead and other home health and safety hazards."

As part of his election campaign, Ohio Governor Michael DeWine vowed to "...make sure that Ohio gets the gold standard for addressing lead poisoning..." by providing a tax credit for homeowners and landlords who safely remove lead-based paint from their homes and rental properties. Governor DeWine vowed to work with paint companies to remediate the problem. "I believe that we must have everyone at the table to come up with a solution."

Still, Cleveland lags far behind the country when it comes to legislative policy and enforcement.

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland believes there are between 60,000 and 80,000 pre-1978 homes and rental units that have some form of lead-paint contamination, putting thousands of children at risk for brain damage.

The City of Cleveland Lead Hazard Control (LHC) Grant Program is

designed to strategically advance efforts to increase lead-safe affordable housing while eliminating the possibility of childhood lead poisoning in the City of Cleveland, according to their website. The LHC program provides lead risk assessments, identifies lead-based paint and provides grants to control lead-based paint hazards.

Of the hundred sixty or so inspectors at the City of Cleveland Department of Building and Housing, only a handful are assigned to regularly test for lead-based paint. Even though the number of inspectors has increased over the past several years, often they're mired in administrative paperwork when they should be in the field testing for lead.

The Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus (CCPC) is amassing a coalition of organizations to help get lead safe legislation on the ballot for November 2019, according to CCPC co-director Steve Holecko.

Civil rights attorney Rebecca Maurer, owner and founder of Maurer Law LLC and Peter Pattakos, founding partner at Pattakos Law Firm LLC, which specializes

in protection of civil rights and employees' rights in the workplace, provided valuable advice to CCPC, helping them tweak the legislation Councilman Johnson introduced to City Council.

"Attorney Rebecca Maurer wrote the legislation for Jeff (Johnson)," said Holecko. "It's well-known that we're meeting with her and Pattakos to see what they come up with."

CLSN, Progressive Caucus, Democratic Socialist of America, and SEIU1199 (Health Care and Social Services Union) are on board. They hope to get other organizations to support lead safe legislation for the ballot in November.

"We'll be out there canvassing for signatures after the holidays, once the weather gets warmer," he added.

Charter Review is expected to be on the ballot next fall as well. A petition to reduce City Council from 17 to 9, three at large and six wards, is certain to raise some eyebrows. This could tilt the balance of power to special interest groups with deep financial pockets determined to sway elected officials away from passing lead-paint legislation.

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Cudell Board addresses a variety of issues as it proceeds with Strategic Alliance

by Chuck Hoven

At the December meeting of the Cudell Improvement Incorporated Board of Trustees, board members discussed the organization's budget; its real estate holdings; its contract with Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization (DSCDO) for the Strategic Alliance; the difficulty in getting enough board members to the meeting for a quorum; and the closing of the office on Lorain Avenue due to a staff member finding another job.

Cudell Improvement Board Treasurer Michael Flickinger said the organization no longer had any employees except one part time person. "We are contracting with Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization." Flickinger said Cudell Improvement has been unable to get an adequate financial statement from DSCDO as to its expenses incurred in the contract. Flickinger said that, over the next six months, the primary expenses by Cudell Improvement will be payments due on the contract with DSCDO. He said four payments were required by the contract. Two have already been paid. Additional payments are due on January 1 and April 1st.

Flickinger, who also sits on the Cudell Improvement Real Estate Committee,

reported on some of the properties Cudell Improvement owns. Flickinger said Cudell Improvement was working in partnership with a contractor to rehab a house at 11208 Lake Avenue. He described the house as having "classy" fixtures. The expectation, he said, is that the house, when rehabbed, will command a price point near \$450,000. Board President Dan Berry asked if the house could be turned over to the contractor now. Flickinger said he thought Cudell Improvement would make more profit if it waited for the rehab to be completed. Former Cudell Improvement Executive Director Anita Brindza, in attendance at the meeting, noted that the property, which originally came from the landbank and is under the stipulations of the landbank, can't be sold without an occupancy permit.

Flickinger also commented on the difficulty of getting enough Cudell Improvement Board members to come to the meeting to have a quorum. He said that all have received notices. For three months, Cudell Improvement's Board has not been able to achieve a quorum. The next meeting will be on January 8th at 5:45 a.m.

Visit: www.plainpress.org to read more on the Cudell meeting



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, December 2, 2018; Annual St. Nicholas Spaghetti Dinner, St. Malachi's Parish Hall, 2459 Washington Avenue: (L-R): Jane Smith, Karen Brust, Diane Jasso and Karen Charek are ready to serve spaghetti, meat balls, salad and rolls to guests.

CLEVELAND NEIGHBORHOODS

continued from page one

hardest on the least advantaged. As a consequence, these low-income residents are driven out of these increasingly expensive areas."

Florida concludes his article saying, "If left unaddressed, the economic divides within cities will only grow, leading to an even greater backlash against developers, tech companies, politicians, and the "urban elite," which threatens not only urban revitalization, but is also likely to stall the very engine of innovation and economic progress."

The question raised by Ohio City residents' desire to have an economically integrated neighborhood, as well as urban amenities close at hand, presents a difficult dilemma. If market forces are left to their own accord, more low-income residents will be driven out of the neighborhood as affluent residents move in to take advantage of the amenities. Development corporations incentivized by development fees will

tend to favor continued building of new more expensive homes and providing more amenities for new residents. The City of Cleveland and its policies such as 15-year tax abatements are a demonstration of the city officials desire for high income residents and the payroll taxes they bring to city coffers.

As for addressing the needs and desires of low-income residents to stay in their neighborhoods and to also enjoy the growing amenities, there are few incentives for either development corporations or the city of Cleveland to work to address their concerns.

An article in this issue of the *Plain Press* outlines the Cleveland Lead Safe Network's plan to use a ballot initiative to address lead poisoning in Cleveland rental properties. The ballot initiative is the result of stalled efforts to get the City of Cleveland to address lead paint poisoning children in Cleveland rental properties. This is just one example of the lack

of urgency the City of Cleveland has when an issue impacts largely low-income families.

Is there a way to offer an incentive to community organizations to address the needs of Cleveland's low-income residents?

A Democracy Voucher Program in the City of Seattle that was designed to increase democracy on the local level may provide an example of a way Cleveland could use incentives to spur attention to the needs of its largely low-income population. Each resident of the city of Seattle receives four \$25 democracy vouchers that they can give to a candidate of their choice. Politicians running for city council positions are forced to talk to residents to convince the

residents to give the voucher to their campaign. The democracy vouchers have increased the number of candidates able to run for office as well as the participation of residents in local elections.

A similar program using Community Development Block Grant and property tax dollars in Cleveland could help provide the incentive for community organizations to pay greater attention to low income residents and for the City of Cleveland departments to design policies to meet their needs. Two \$25-dollar vouchers could be given to every man, woman and child in Cleveland. This would amount to just over a million dollars per City Council Ward (each ward has roughly 21,000 res-

idents). Community organizations and city Departments that qualify for Community Development Block Grant funding or city tax dollars would have to convince residents that their programs would best serve the residents in order to receive the voucher.

Perhaps such an initiative would provide a way for Cleveland residents to get programs to help low income residents to stay in their homes, avoid foreclosure or evictions, and stem the lead poisoning of Cleveland's children.

Editor's Note: For more information on the Democracy Voucher Program, see the City of Seattle website at Seattle.gov.

Three Near West Side buildings awarded Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits

On Wednesday December 12th, the Ohio Development Services Agency awarded \$36,057,985 in Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits for the rehabilitation of 28 historic buildings. Ten of those historic buildings were in the Northeast Region and of those ten, three are in the area served by the *Plain Press*.

The awards will assist private developers in rehabilitating historic buildings. Developers are not issued the tax credit until project construction is complete and all program requirements are verified.

The Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit program is administered in partnership with the Ohio History Connection's State Historic Preservation Office. The State Historic Preservation Office determines if a property qualifies as a historic building and if the rehabilitation plans comply with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The three Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit recipients in the Plain Press service area are:

Astrup Company Building: 2937 West 25 Street, Cleveland, 44113; *Total Project Cost:* \$16,158,929; *Total Tax Credit:* \$1,615,000. The Astrup Company Building is a former industrial complex in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood south of downtown Cleveland. The project combines the rehabilitation of the historic complex with construction of new

residential buildings on a vacant lot. The historic buildings will be converted for community-focused and arts-based tenants including the Boys and Girls Club, Cleveland Museum of Art, dance, theater, and artist studios. New-construction housing will have dedicated affordable units as well as market-rate units.

Belden Seymour: 3805 Franklin Boulevard, Cleveland, 44113. *Total Project Cost:* \$2,221,700; *Total Tax Credit:* \$222,000. Built in 1874 in the Italianate Style, the Belden Seymour house was converted from single-family use to apartments. Now vacant, the building's small apartments will be redeveloped into larger units. The tower, reduced in height during a previous renovation, will be restored to its original height.

Rhodes Mansion: 2905 Franklin Boulevard, Cleveland, 44113. *Total Project Cost:* \$13,062,715; *Total Tax Credit:* \$1,373,109. The Rhodes Mansion, constructed in 1874, spent its first 40 years as a residence. However, from 1914 until recently, it was owned and used by Cuyahoga County as offices, a nursing home, and archives storage. Now vacant, the historic home, along with an annex built by the County, will be converted into 33 market-rate apartments. An additional nine townhouse units will be constructed on an adjacent vacant lot.

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Saturday, December 8, 2018; Santas in Tremont, Tremont Tap House, 2572 Scranton Road: After surviving the Bar Crawl, Santas prepare to embark on a 1 Mile Santa Fun Run.

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CHALLENGE TAX ASSESSMENTS

continued from page one

Rose Oakar, an organizer for Citizens United For Fairness, provided a sympathetic tone to the conversation.

"From a lot of the calls I've gotten, people feel the same way that you do about your property taxes," she told a diverse the crowd ranging in age from their early 30's to late 70's.

Shelly Davis, Director of the Board of Revisions, gave a PowerPoint presentation on steps residents can take to appeal their tax assessments.

"The Board of Revisions is statutorily created just for this process. When you have a value increase, the Board of Revisions is the only agency you can go to have your property values considered. We're a stand-alone agency," she said. "The Board Members are made of up of representatives from the County Commissioners Office, the Auditors Office, and Treasures Office. Our hearing officers include three attorneys, three licensed appraisers, and three people that have what I call a mix bag of tricks that are real estate orientated, most of which have degrees."

"We're committed to serving the taxpayers," she added.

The Cuyahoga County Board of Revisions website (<https://bor.cuyahogacounty.us>) is the best portal to access filing a petition for reevaluation, according to Davis. The site is currently open through April 1, 2019. Residents wishing to submit a petition should follow instructions to the letter.

"If you leave information out of the proposal, you will receive a rejection notice," Davis said. "Make certain to redact personal information. Your proposal becomes public property,

out there for the world to see, and I can't give it back to you."

Cuyahoga County Board of Revisions asks that applicants provide support materials to make their case, including a professional appraisal, photographs, and contractor estimates for repairs, for example.

"The complaint form is self-explanatory," she said, adding, "I did not design this. This form has been in existence since 1980 when I started at the County. It has never changed."

The Board of Revisions will notify applicants on a hearing date. All hearings are recorded and become a permanent record. Applicants will have an opportunity to present their testimony. It's advised to attend the hearing if you can. The Board of Revisions renders their decision within 5-7 days.

Dennis Kennedy, Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer, explained that appraisals were initially done with the assistance of a Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system.

"We're not allowed to go on the property. We don't go in structures. We have a bunch of documents including sales histories, comparable values, description of the property, but when an appraiser goes by and visually inspects that's all they have access to. You can have two houses that look similar but if one house has water damage, needs repairs, we don't know that. That's what the Board of Revisions is for," he said. "Our responsibility legally is to set the value on properties. The impact of that value on your taxes are the result of other issues most of which are outside our control. We cannot assess value to generate more money."

CAMA has an accurate probability rate of about 80% according to several reports. The mass assessment system which uses a regression analysis was never approved by the Ohio Tax Commissioner as required by law. CAMA does not conform to accepted scientific or statistical practice, critics argue.

Faulty data handling, a selective property collection process, and failure to analyze the market sales information can skew the CAMA findings. Which properties selected by field inspectors for comparable properties determine the outcome, including houses that are listed but have not sold and handyman specials can move the needle in either direction.

Cleveland.com reported County Council approved paying more than \$2.3 million to 44 state-certified appraisers who determined what home and business owners will pay in property taxes in 2019.

Appraisers evaluated more than 100 properties a day, according to Lisa Rocco, Director of Operations, Fiscal Office Cuyahoga County. The county estimates the number of residential properties at close to 500,000. A privately-owner company, John G. Cleminshaw, Inc., was hired to appraise the county's commercial real estate.

Real estate appraisal trainees require no formal education. A recent job description at John G. Cleminshaw, Inc., listed no experience required, high school diploma or equivalent, and must have reliable transportation. The average starting rate for appraisal trainees in Ohio of \$12 per hour is 34% below the national average.

Some residents complained a combination of a flawed CAMA data system and unskilled field appraisers led to gross overvaluation of their property.

"I was compared to new construction, which shouldn't have happened. My assessment was



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CHALLENGE TAX ASSESSMENTS

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extremely high as a result of the comparison," said property owner Fay Harris. Harris has been a resident of Ohio City for more than 33 years.

"I did research on the CAMA system. I did contact a couple of appraisers and banks. They said if the county is using the CAMA system in doing mass appraisals, you can be guaranteed that new construction will be evaluated against your property."

She added, "I went in front of the Revision Board. They didn't have a clue. I contacted the state Office of Tax Commissioner. I needed to understand this process. He said training for appraisers is only a week long. Seniors are sitting in their homes, deathly scared, not computer savvy, 78 or 80 years old, and older. They honestly believe they'll be put out on the street."

A visibly upset crowd gathered around former Congresswoman Oakar for support following a meeting

which left them with little recourse except to file a complaint with the Board of Revisions, a time-consuming process that could cost them thousands.

"The appraisals were off to begin with," she assured the crowd. "I honestly believe that the Board of Revision has to be much more sensitive to the people that come before them. Not all people have the sophistication or ability to take pictures or to afford a new appraisal. It's ridiculous. Something has to be done. My neighbor came to me crying."

OHIO CITY NEIGHBORHOOD VISION

continued from page one

Parish on March 6th where Final Recommendations and Next Steps will be the agenda.

Outlining the purpose of creating Ohio City Neighborhood Design Guidelines, in a statement passed out at the meeting, Ohio City Incorporated explains it has "set out on this project to ensure the Ohio City neighborhood maintains its historic integrity, long-term affordability, and walkable, transit-connected urban character. The intention is to conduct this process in a community driven, equitable manner that examines the variety of factors that affect the Ohio City neighborhood. This process will culminate in the creation of the new design guidelines, with a focus on infill development opportunities, housing typologies, long-term affordability, and preservation of the community's architectural character."

The list of neighborhood characteristics those in attendance were given to choose their top five from, included the following items: access to public transportation; well-rounded neighborhood where needs can be met within the community; highway access/connections; proximity to downtown; neighborhood character (architecture, streets, tree canopy); safety; shopping, restaurants, entertainment, etc. in walking distance; neighborhood diversity; mixture of housing types and values; ability to age in place; sense of community; affordable housing; historic assets; proximity to the lake and recreation options; parks and green space; educational options and quality schools; supportive neighborhood services; and other.

Residents were also given the opportunity to list concerns they had about the neighborhood.

Following checking off their top

five neighborhood characteristics and listing their concerns, residents and stakeholders in attendance visited five different stations set up around the room where they were invited to make comments based on the theme of each station.

At Station One, residents were asked to complete the sentence, "I live in Ohio City because..." Some of the comments by residents were: services for poor/homeless; diversity; my network of friends/institutions; my kids live there/family; I can walk anywhere; friendly neighbors/businesses; love it; of Christian community; of my church and neighbors; my wife made me downsize from Cleveland Heights and our grandchildren are down the street; walkability; restaurants; friendly neighbors; local businesses; Fairview gardens; and a sense of a community that plans together.

At Station Two, residents were asked to complete the sentence, "My favorite place in Ohio City is..." Some of the comments by residents were: Momocho; Market Avenue Wine Bar; W. 38th Street; Carnegie Library; Phoenix; Bike Coop; Cleveland Tea Revival; West Side Market; Mitchell's; MetroPark on the Cuyahoga River; Old Angle; Market Square Park; Petite Triangle; Hingetown; Vision Yoga; Dave's Liquor Department; Whitman Avenue; Mason's Creamery; and W. 29th and Church in the Autumn.

At Station Three, residents were asked to complete the sentence, "When I brag about Ohio City, I talk about..." Some of the comments were: walkability; trail along the Cuyahoga River; sculling on the river; West Side Market; Ohio City Farm Market; diversity; Market Avenue; Jim Schlecht; and neighbors.

At Station Four, residents were asked to complete the sentence

"What will keep you in Ohio City for 5, 15 & 30 years..." Some responses included: schools; affordability; diversity; parking/better public transit; good schools; more trees; more four to six bedroom homes; bike paths that are safe; taxes affordable and crime down; parking on W. 38th; don't screw up Franklin Circle; affordable property taxes; less crime; safety, housing options; tree canopy; affordable houses; kids programs; parks & green space; Lorain Avenue Bikeway; Riverview Towers; rental housing; being able to walk places; recycling and composting efforts; green street/lawns/flowers; and socioeconomic and racial diversity.

At Station Five, residents were asked to give input on "Neighborhood Links and City Connections" – places where they went and how they got there. Places visited by residents included: grocery, West Side Market, Lakefront, park, library, employment, church, health care, special events and schools. Means of transportation included driving, walking, public transit, bicycle and Uber or Lift.

As they were filling out forms and moving from station to station people chatted about the process and their concerns. Residents seemed comfortable that the people whose names were listed on the steering committee were good choices and would represent their concerns.

Steering Committee members include: Tim Barrett, Freddy Collier, Carl Cook, Jade Davis, Karen Desotell, David Ellison, Alan Fodor, Alex Frondorf, Kathleen Knittel, Lakisha Legg, Al Mancuso, Srinivas Merugu, Annie Pease, Jerry Peña, Mitch Pollack, Helen Qin, Patty Roberts, Priscilla Rocha, Megan Rubado, Roger Scheve, Julia Sieck, Cynthia Triplett, Julie Trott, Ramonita Vargas, Krissie Wells, and Joel Wimbiscus.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OKAR
Saturday, December 8, 2018; W. 65th Street between Clark and Storer: The demolition of the Swift and Company meatpacking building which began in March of 2018 nears completion. The building was one of many Stockyard area meatpacking and slaughterhouse businesses. Swift and Company ceased operation at the facility in the early 1960s.

However, comments from residents indicated a skepticism about whether or not the advice of the Steering Committee and the information gathered at the public meetings would be adhered to by the City of Cleveland and Ohio City Incorporated when developing design guidelines and zoning for the neighborhood. A good number of those present expressed concern that developers wishes would prevail over those of residents. They also commented that new units in developments listed as affordable housing are not truly affordable for

low-and-moderate income Clevelanders. Some people lamented the recent loss of low-income residents with the closing of Vantage Place on Franklin Boulevard, which resulted in the relocation of many long-term neighborhood residents to assisted living and nursing home locations throughout Cuyahoga County.

Editor's Note: Ohio City Inc. has a web form available on their website at ohiocity.org for residents to provide additional input into the planning process. Access the web form under the Neighborhood Vision tab.

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Masrah Cleveland Al-Arabi presents its inaugural ensemble performance, *Dream of Home*, at Cleveland Public Theatre

On November 30th and December 1st, Cleveland Public Theatre presented onstage at the James Levin Theatre, the workshop production of Masrah Cleveland Al-Arabi's *حرس من اليفيلك* inaugural ensemble performance, *Dream of Home*. To create this original play, *Dream of Home*, Clevelanders of many faiths (Muslims, Christians, Druzes, and more) came together to share original stories about remembering, seeking and creating home. This work-in-progress production features Masrah Cleveland Al-Arabi's *حرس من اليفيلك* ensemble artists performing their own personal stories.

Masrah Cleveland Al-Arabi is a new Cleveland Public Theatre project by, for, and with Arabic-speaking communities of Cleveland – and the purpose of this project is to share the rich diversity and perspectives of Cleveland's Arabic-speaking communities. The ensemble of artists is open to all people who share a heritage from Arabic-speaking cultures and a curiosity and passion for theatre.

Masrah Cleveland Al-Arabi's *حرس من اليفيلك* ensemble broadly includes third generation Americans, as well as recent arrivals, Muslims, Christians, and other faiths, who are curious and passionate. This program is made possible by the generous support of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art. The program is bilingual, presented in English and Arabic.

The 2018 Masrah Cleveland Al-Arabi's *حرس من اليفيلك* ensemble is comprised of amateur and professional theatre artists: Abbas Alhilali, Issam

Boudiab, Jamal Julia Boudiab, Ebaa Boudiab, Hussein Ghareeb, Omar Kurdi, Manar Yared, and Haneen Yehya.

The creative production team includes Raymond Bobgan – Producer; Faye Hargate – Line Producer; Jamal Julia Boudiab – Marketing Translation Consultant; and Inda Blatch-Geib – Costume Designer.

CPT's Executive Artistic Director, Raymond Bobgan says, "Cleveland Public Theatre believes art has the power to transform communities. We are proud to launch the inaugural program of Masrah Cleveland Al-Arabi's *حرس من اليفيلك*, an ensemble that will share the rich diversity and perspectives that exist here in Cleveland on our stages. We know that when we move toward inclusivity and connection our lives are better and we take better care of each other. Theatre can be a bridge, a connector, a celebrator to make Northeast Ohio more compassionate and conscientious."

Masrah Cleveland Al-Arabi's *حرس من اليفيلك* ensemble and advisory committee member Omar Kurdi said, "I believe that the arts are the best form of expression and Masrah Cleveland Al-Arabi is the epitome of that. This is a great opportunity to build bridges and tell our stories through theatre in a time when it's much needed. *Dream of Home* *حلم وطن* is about me, you, us, and everyone with a story."

Prior to the performance, guests were treated to catered food from Kan Zaman which included tabouli salad, hummus, baba ghanouj, and a chicken and rice dish. Visual artists Hussein Ghareeb, Kubra Alhilali and Haneen Alhilali displayed their work on the walls while preshow music was provided by Danny Lahood. After the production on November 30th the Tony Mikhael Band provided music and on December 1st the post show Mideastern music was provided by DJ Georgie.



PHOTO BY STEVE WAGNER

Cleveland Public Theatre & Masrah Cleveland Al-Arabi's workshop production of *Dream of Home*

حلم وطن

Actor Haneen Yehya, seated, performs in the role of Noura, a young woman experiencing an internal conflict between her desire to pursue her career in the United States and competing demands from her family in Lebanon.

ST IGNATIUS PARISH

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out to the suburbs where I had served. As I announced that I was coming here, I heard, 'Oh I was baptized there,' 'my parents were married there,' 'I went to school there', so I unknowingly know former parishioners. That's one of the great things about this parish, people like to come back to visit because the mass is just so beautiful."

Coming into the parish mid-calendar

year, which Estabrook explains for a parish with a school tends to be the school year, his immediate task is to remain faithful to the task the bishop has given him, to the task that God has been present within the church community.

"Realize when you go to a foreign place, it is Holy Land. God is already at work there," Estabrook said. "When you get there, you need to be respectful to the way God is already working there. So, for me to arrive at a new place and demand that everything change, I don't think it's respectful to God, let alone the people that have been there before you. I'm taking these first few months discerning the way God is working, discerning the resources, discerning the way God is calling us to faithfully live out the Gospel in 2018. It's an openness to change, but also the desire to be faithful to the way that God is working here, to be honest and transparent."

One of the ways Estabrook has helped the parish in living out the Gospels has been his Homily Blog, where he posts his weekday and weekend homilies.

"I started posted my homilies on Facebook since the time I was ordained in 2009," Estabrook said. "I did that for a few years, but then I realized that you have to have Facebook in order to access the homilies. In 2013, I started the blog, posting my homilies for daily mass and weekends and then I put a link on Facebook as well. I hope it's helpful."

His reason for posting the homilies was a way for family, friends and parishioners to be exposed to the Gospels.

"The reason I started putting them on the internet actually," Estabrook continued, "was that Pope Benedict encouraged all Catholics to use different forms of social media to preach the Gospels."

Another way of helping those in the parish has been the extension of confessions. Held on Saturdays for a half hour before mass, Estabrook has extended them to an hour from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. On Sunday mornings, parishioners may attend confession from 10 to 10:45 a.m. While the need to make these changes was not an emergency, Estabrook said time in the confessional provides a sense of renewal, especially during the Christmas season as Catholics prepare themselves for the birth of Jesus.

"It's not bothering the priest," Estabrook said. "We're here to make the sacraments available."

When asked about the strengths of St. Ignatius, especially for the future, Estabrook said that the liturgy is the church's biggest strength.

"Liturgy is celebrated beautifully," Estabrook said. "In my homily last week, I spoke of the true, the good and the beautiful. The truth is being conveyed in the teaching that we are doing here, goodness is being practiced in our outreach and beauty is in the church and the liturgy."



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, December 1, 2018; MetroHealth Main Campus, Outdoor Quad, MetroHealth Season to Celebrate sponsored by MetroHealth, Turner Construction and Ward 14 Councilwoman Jasmin Santana: Sara Bisheimer of Theresa's Café passes out pastries at the Cookie Counter. Bisheimer says she currently has a production space in Ohio City and plans to open Theresa's Café soon at W. 33rd and Sackett.

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