



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, January 22, 2019; Cleveland Municipal School District Board of Education meeting, George Washington Carver School, 2200 E. 55th Street: Gene Tracy calls upon the Board of Education to demand the return of funds promised to Cleveland's children for after school programs. Tracy says since 2009 Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson has taken \$1 million a year from those funds and given it to the Cleveland Browns.

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Cleveland Board of Education celebrates Say Yes to Education, and hears concerns of citizens

by Chuck Hoven

At the Cleveland Municipal School District Board of Education meeting on January 22, 2019 at George Washington Carver School, Cleveland Metropolitan School District Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon noted that January was School

Board Recognition month and thanked the Board for their dedication and hard work. Monyka Price, the City of Cleveland Chief of Education and the liaison between the City of Cleveland and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, also praised the Board of Education for

"keeping attention focused on the Cleveland Plan" and their "unselfish devotion of time and service."

In his Chief Executive Officer's Report, Eric Gordon talked about the launch of Say Yes to Education Cleveland, and how the district had committed to making the scholarship program and its social service component both sustainable and equitable. Gordon called the program a revitalization and economic development strategy for the City of Cleveland. He described some of the details of the program and fielded questions from Board of Education members about the program.

Gordon then talked extensively about a part of the Say Yes to Education program that was unique to Cleveland. He said Cleveland had committed that every student obtaining a scholarship through the program would receive a mentor through College Now. He said to become a mentor a person needs to have completed college and needs to undergo a background check. Gordon says he is encouraging every credentialed professional person he knows to become a mentor. He said mentoring, which he participates in, involves two email conversations per month. He said

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, January 19, 2019; Cleveland Women's March, Cleveland Public Square: Carmen Maldonado of Cleveland expresses some of her concerns-- Reproductive Rights, Immigrant rights, LGBTQIA rights, Environmental Justice, Religious Tolerance, Climate Change Action, Black Lives Matter and Health Care for All.

City of Cleveland presents plans for Fulton Road reconstruction from Clark Avenue to Lorain Avenue

by Bruce Checfsky

With the smell of hops in the air, residents of the Fulton/Lorain neighborhood gathered at the Platform Beer production facility Lesly Building on Vega Avenue on January 23rd to hear Councilman Kerry McCormack introduce guest speakers for the evening.

Final plans for Phase I of the Fulton Road reconstruction project were on tap for discussion. Phase II plans will be reviewed in March.

"There will be dust around this project, and inconvenience," said McCormack. "It's a massive road project. Please be patient."

Phase I (Clark Avenue to Lorain Avenue) calls for new concrete pavement, concrete drive aprons, curbs and walks for Fulton Road, reconstruction of Bailey/Fulton intersection, drainage facilities, installation of ADA compliant curb ramps, traffic signal reconstruction at Vega and Bailey, new striping and signs, exclusive bike lanes, sharrows and parking lanes, and 1700 feet of new water main from Bailey to Lorain, with new connections, valves, and

hydrants, and relocation of utility poles.

The \$8 million project is expected to begin February 4th. Phase II design plans are currently underway, with reconstruction from Lorain Avenue to Detroit Avenue scheduled for later this year or early 2020.

Ward 14 Councilwoman Jasmin Santana addressed the thirty or so residents of this ethnically diverse west side Cleveland neighborhood.

"There's nothing that makes me happier than residents engaged in projects that take place in our neighborhood," she said.

McCormack, the youngest and first openly gay city council member along with Santana, the first Hispanic female council member in the city's history, represent a new contingent of an otherwise stale body politic at city hall.

City of Cleveland Project Manager Angela Sanchez took the floor to explain that Terrace Construction Company will perform the work, based on acceptance of their bid submitted in the Fall of 2018.

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Women from throughout Greater Cleveland converged on Public Square in downtown Cleveland for the Cleveland Women's March on a cold wintry January 19. The march was one of many Women's Marches being held throughout the United States. The Marches began three years ago the day after the inauguration ceremony for newly elected President Donald Trump.

The women gathered for the



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, January 19, 2019; Cleveland Women's March, Cleveland Public Square: This young superhero rides into the march aboard her trusty steed.

Cleveland Women's March offers a colorful display of unity and diversity

by Chuck Hoven

Women from throughout Greater Cleveland converged on Public Square in downtown Cleveland for the Cleveland Women's March on a cold wintry January 19. The march was one of many Women's Marches being held throughout the United States. The Marches began three years ago the day after the inauguration ceremony for newly elected President Donald Trump.

Cleveland Women's March were

joined by some men, children and even pets. About eight hundred Greater Clevelanders from diverse racial, ethnic, religious groups joined a Public Square in solidarity to support a wide range of causes represented with a variety of signs and banners. The signs and banners displayed showed some of the diversity of the groups involved in organizing the event as well as the various issues that concerned

women and their supporters.

While the national news reported divisions in the leadership of the Women's March, in Cleveland no such division was evident. In fact, many of those present espoused a philosophy of intersectional feminism. According to an article in *The Telegraph* by Ava Vidal, Intersectional Feminism is a term coined by American Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989. In her article continued on page 2



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, January 19, 2019; Cleveland Women's March, Cleveland Public Square: The marchers head out from Public Square to carry their message through the streets of downtown Cleveland.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, January 19, 2019; Cleveland Women's March, Cleveland Public Square: The crowd, while predominately made up of women, consisted of male supporters as well.

WOMEN'S MARCH

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Vidal quotes a textbook definition of Intersectional Feminism as being "The view that women experience oppression in varying configurations and in varying degrees of intensity. Cultural patterns of oppression are not only interrelated, but are bound together, and influenced by the intersectional systems of society. Examples of this include race, gender, class, ability and ethnicity."

The diverse groups represented at the Cleveland March included: Yellow Peril, Black Lives Matter, Jewish Voice for Peace, Refuse Fascism, Intersectional Feminism, United Auto Workers, The Tamir Rice Foundation, Emily's List, The League of Women Voters, Trans Women, Women's Wave, Squad Goals, #Me Too, Planned Parenthood, and Black Women, Femmes and Girls for Reproductive Justice.

The mood was festive with creative colorful signs and banners throughout the crowd. Women from throughout Greater Cleveland braved the cold and snow to bring their messages to Public Square.

Corey Ringle of Shaker Heights and Sara Solomon of Lakewood brought signs celebrating their pride in the number of women elected to the House of Representatives in the midterm elections. Some of the women elected, say their journey to elected office began with the inspiration of the Women's March three years ago.

Ringle and Solomon's signs included messages front and back "Misogynists wanted us back in the kitchen, But Instead We took the House"; "They Tried to Bury Us. They Didn't Know We Were Seeds"; and "Okay Ladies, Now Let's Get in Formation" The hashtags on their signs were: #womenswave and #squadgoals.

Ringle and Solomon's signs celebrate the Women's Wave that began with the first Women's March in 2017 which according to #WomensWave "inspired hundreds of women to run, millions more to vote, and dozens to win elected office."

Chloe Muir, Erika Christy and Mikki Bratt, three teachers from Revere School in Bath Township, joined the march with signs showing their confidence in the next generation of activists they are working to educate. Their coordinated signs, with black ink on a pink background, read "Who Run the World? Girls. Ok Ladies, Now Let's Get in Formation."

Carmen Maldonado of Cleveland held a sign upon which she tried to list the many issues she is concerned about. The sign says: "Why I March: Reproductive Rights, Immigrant Rights, LGBTQIA, Environmental Justice, Religious Tolerance, Climate Change Action, Black Lives Matter, Health Care for All."

Speakers from some of the groups

spoke to the crowd prior to the march. Speakers stressed the importance of solidarity and action in an important time in history. They spoke of the importance of women of different religions, ethnic and racial background, and differing sexual orientations supporting each other.

A number of speakers spoke of their concern for children being taken away from their parents at the United States southern border. Samaria Rice, the mother of Tamir Rice, was one of the speakers who expressed heartfelt compassion for the children and the families they were being separated from at the border. Rice also talked about the foundation she has started in memory of her son which helps nurture young children in Cleveland.

Some politicians also took the stage to address the crowd including State Senator Nickie Antonio, Cleveland City Council Representative Phyllis Cleveland, and Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson.

The signs and banners being carried contained messages supporting immigrant rights, equal rights, reproductive rights, health care for all, LGBTQ rights, racial harmony, environmental justice, climate change action, science matters messages, messages about consent in relationships, ending sexism and harassment, voting, and a variety of anti-Trump messages.

Messages on signs also celebrated the number of women elected to the House of Representatives in the midterm election. These messages included links to hashtags such as #squadgoals, #womenswave, and #Intersectional Feminism.

Other visible signs included: "Yellow Peril Supports Black Power Black Lives Matter"; "Women Won't Back Down"; "Vote – Use it or Lose"; "Governing Not a Game -Let's Make a Deal – Get to Work- Let's Return to Government For the People – League of Women Voters" "Trump/Pence Must Go!"; "Resist Ignorance"; "So Bad, Even Introverts are here"; "Orange Lies Matter"; "Families Belong Together"; "Stand with Black Women"; "I am a ...woman, Not an object"; "Trans Women Too"; "If we can shatter the ceiling, Your wall will be noting on us"; "I Believe Dr. Christine Blasey Ford"; "Proud Immigrant from a Shithole Country"; "Americas Symbol For Immigrants Should Be the Statue of Liberty"; "Together we Fight for All"; "Injustice Anywhere is a Threat to Justice Everywhere – MLK"; "Women's Rights are Human Rights"; "Keep Your Laws Out of My Exam Room"; "Our Rights are not up for grabs. Neither are we.";

"The difference between a broken community and a thriving one is the presence of Women who are Valued – Michelle Obama"; "I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change, I'm changing the things I cannot accept"; "Rape – Shame – Silence, #ME TOO, I will not be silenced -- 201 and Counting..."; and "Science and Reason Matter."



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

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.

AUDITIONS: POISE ENTERTAINMENT EDUCATION seeks volunteer Hip-Hop, R & B, Rock, Pop, Jazz, Gospel, Dancers, Bands and Comedians to audition to perform at its You Can Do It Career Expo 2019. Contact information: Email: poiseentertainment@tgc.com or call 216-331-2119.

PRINT CLUB OF CLEVELAND will celebrate its centennial at Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Avenue, with a free special exhibition through March 4th featuring a diverse range of prints from various artists spanning from 1927-2016. Opening reception on Friday February 8th from 6-7:45 p.m.

COMMUNITY OHIO CITY NEIGHBORHOOD VISION: On Thursday, January 31 the second of three public meetings will be held from 6-8 p.m. at Urban Community School, 4909 Lorain Avenue.

SECOND DISTRICT POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING: Tuesday, February 12th at 6:30 p.m. at Applewood Centers, 3518 W. 25th (In the gym on Daisey.)

PEACE IN THE PUB: VEGANISM AS A SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT: Tuesday, February 12 at 7 p.m. at Market Garden Brewery, 1947 W. 25th Street. Free and open to the public.

OHIO CITY RETAIL PLAN: Ohio City Incorporated and The Riddle Company will host a public meeting to share a draft of the Ohio City Retail Plan and collect final feedback on February 12th from 6-8 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 2600 Church Avenue. For more information contact Ashley Shaw at: ashaw@ohiocity.org.

PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER FOR HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

Seminar on February 13th from Noon to 1:15 p.m. in the Case Western Reserve University BioEnterprise Bldg, 11000 Cedar Avenue, B-03, PRCHN Meeting Room. Topic: Neighbors, Neighborhoods, and Child Maltreatment in Cleveland presented by Jim Spilsbury, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, Case Western Reserve University. Public is welcome to attend. A light lunch is served.

YWCA OF GREATER CLEVELAND ITS TIME TO TALK FORUM ON RACE on Friday, February 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus, 4250 Richmond Road, in the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Humanities Center.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA): BIG READ WRITING WORKSHOP: 2019's

NEA Big Read book selection is *Citizen: An American Lyric*, a book-length poem by Claudia Rankine. According to *Bookforum*, Rankine's work is "an anatomy of American racism in the new millennium. As part of Big Read 2019 the Cleveland Public Library Carnegie West Branch, 1900 Fulton Road, will host "The Personal is Political" a free writing workshop held on Saturdays February 23 and March 2nd from 2-4 p.m.

CUDELL IMPROVEMENT ANNUAL MEETING: February 23, 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Brennan's Catering & Banquet Center, 13000 Triskett Road.

DETROIT SHOREWAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION ANNUAL MEETING & SPAGHETTI DINNER: Thursday, February 28 from 5:30-7 PM at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School Gym, 6920 Detroit Avenue. For more information or to check your membership status call 216-961-4242 ext. 243 or email awilson@dscdo.org.

EVENTS

FREE FAMILY FUN EVENT: Neighborhood Family Practice Winter Wonderland Ice Skating at Halloran Park, Friday February 22, from 5-7 p.m. Free event includes admission and skates as well as fun filled craft making and games, pizza party, celebrate Children's Dental Health Month with the Toothfairy, Hockey fun with the St. Ed's Team, Snowflake Selfie Station. For more information call Neighborhood Family Practice at 216-281-8945 ext. 294.

HEALTH

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU LOVE HAVE DIABETES? Everyone with Diabetes Counts is a program that encourages lifestyle changes while learning about your diabetes and the way it affects your health. Have fun with friends and family while learning how to manage diabetes through no-cost educational workshops. Enjoy the benefits of a healthier, more energetic lifestyle by signing up today. Join us if you have any of the following: Diabetes, Pre-Diabetes, or a family history of diabetes. Program details: Six short weekly two-hour workshops, no cost to participate, giveaways at each class. Transportation help is available. Call Cheryl Sara at 216-281-0872 ext. 255 to reserve your free spot in this class.

NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS (NED) AWARENESS WEEK is from February 25th to March 3rd. Schools, nonprofits, companies, media outlets, healthcare providers, and more are all encouraged to join as NEDAwareness Collaborators. To learn more and to register visit: nationaleatingdisorders.org.

VOLUNTEERS

TRUE2U is a volunteer mentoring program that helps Cleveland eighth graders explore their true selves, identify their strengths and passions, and connect them to their future. True2U mentors deliver the tools and perspective that helps youth make the most of high school, and be successful in college and/or their career path. Mentoring teams meet with youth on nine Thursday mornings. For more information about being a Neighborhood Leadership Institute True2U mentor contact Khalid, Lindsay or Molly by phone at 216-812-8700, or follow this link: <http://neighborhoodleadership.org/programs/true2u>.

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 cfadvoates.org or call 216-443-3377 for more information.

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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.

Property tax abatements need re-examination in light of impact on property tax valuations

by Chuck Hoven

Residents of neighborhoods with a large number of new and substantially rehabbed houses, like Tremont (Southside) and Ohio City say they have been particularly hard hit by recent property valuations that have substantially increased their property tax bills. For many low-or-moderate income homeowners, the increases will cause a hardship and may threaten their ability to remain in their property. On January 23rd, Southside (Tremont) residents Melody Perry and Robert Mihalik stood in the rain in front of the Cuyahoga County headquarters for hours protesting the huge hike in property taxes.

One Tremont resident that wishes to remain anonymous said, "I believe it all comes down to the Tax Abatements given to new/predatory builders. We, the heritage property owners, are making up the taxes

Proposed development voting rights at Lincoln Heights stir disagreement over Block Club Meeting

by Bruce Checfsky

Josh Rosen, a partner in Sustainable Community Associates, wanted to stay on message when he presented plans for a new residential housing development at 1633 Auburn Avenue across the street from the Wagner Awing Building in Tremont.

Seated at a large round table in the basement of St. Augustine Church on West 14th Street where the Lincoln Heights Block Club meeting took place on January 14th, his eyes were fixed on a laptop computer screen as he rattled off details of the \$21 million project called Tappan.

"There's a total of 95 apartments and 2100 square feet of retail space. The apartments are mostly on the smaller side," he said. "There are three, two-bedrooms, close to an even split between one-bedroom and studios. We're focusing on smaller units, on units my company doesn't currently own in Tremont."

When a question was floated from the back of the room about bike lanes along Scranton Ave and whether new construction and additional parking on the street might affect the lanes, he grew impatient.

"Could I finish?" he said. "Then I'll answer any questions that I'm qualified to answer."

Anyone who's attended these meetings on a regular basis over the past few months has seen the tension flare between Rosen and with members of the Lincoln Heights Block Club.

This night was no different.

The turbulent undercurrent of the evening was a letter written by Rosen and partners Naomi Sable and Ben Ezinga, and sent to Tremont West Development Corporation Executive Director Cory Riordan on October 27, 2018. Sustainable Community Associates, the real-estate developer company owned by Rosen, Sable, and Ezinga, served notice to TWDC that they are done playing nice with the Block Club, further driving the two sides apart.

In the opening paragraph of the two-page document, Rosen and associates raise concerns about the direction of the Lincoln Heights Block Club, calling for a review of their bylaws and voting policy. They call for TWDC to pull its sponsorship of the Block Club because of its position on landowners versus non-landowner rights which, they argue, is unreasonable.

Rosen, Sable, and Ezinga believe that non-landowners should have the same voting rights as landowners.

Lincoln Heights Block Club couldn't disagree more. Their by-

these developers are not paying because of the abatements."

NEWS ANALYSIS

School systems and other entities base the amount of increase in property tax that they request on what they expect to collect. If there are a large number of abated properties, taxing bodies need to ask for higher levy amounts. Also, school systems have to take into account the percentage of property owners who will be delinquent. A percentage that increases when more homeowners can't pay their continuously increasing property taxes. It becomes a vicious circle resulting eventually in higher taxes on the remaining property taxpayers.

Residents also report that their property values are being compared to new or substantially rehabbed houses in the neighborhood rather than older homes that have not undergone a substantial rehabilitation.

Proposed development voting rights at Lincoln Heights stir disagreement over Block Club Meeting

laws, voted into place in 2004 and amended in 2014 to include voting on inherent rights, are limited to "membership that are owners of real property within the block service area, which is defined as a residential ownership or commercial ownership..."

Landowners voting rights align with City of Cleveland Planning Commission & Landmarks Commission regulations, according to Henry Senyak, president of the Lincoln Heights Block Club.

"Just look at this envelope," he said, pointing to a notice sent by the City of Cleveland Office of the Council to his home address. In the lower left corner in bold letters, is printed: Please Forward Without Delay to Owner.

"Renters can't represent owners to the Planning Commission," he added. "We're just following their lead."

When asked in an email by the Plain Press to comment on the letter, Executive Director Cory Riordan replied in writing, "I don't really have a comment. The letter was sent to the (TWDC) Executive Committee to explain why Josh had a problem with the voting structure of the Lincoln Heights Block Club."

Sustainable Community Associates see the landowners' rights versus non-landowners' controversy different.

"I'm better off letting the letter speak for itself," said Rosen, after he walked out midway through the meeting. "Feel free to quote the letter."

"Excluding non-landowners from voting on issues of their neighborhood is a policy steeped in the history of classicism and racism in America," the letter stated. "The policy runs contrary to any shared values of organizing an inclusive community, and it has been our previously and currently stated position that TWDC (Tremont West Development Corporation) should no longer sponsor a block-club that is governed by and ratifies these sorts of policies."

"Given the Block Club's intransigence on non-landowners voting rights, we will no longer be attending any Block Club meetings and will not seek approval for our plans from this Block Club..... We hope that the

The same Tremont resident mentioned above suggested that Cuyahoga County develop a system to protect long time property owners from huge tax increases. She said, "We need to have "Tax Control" properties. That is LOOP, Longtime Owner-Occupied Program (or Properties). It is a program to give property owners a discount for staying in their homes for a period of years. It's worked in other cities. However, the wheels in CLE move slowly."

It is evident that the property tax subsidies in Cleveland are somewhat backwards. The subsidies go to the relatively wealthier people that can afford new or substantially rehabbed homes. This leads to existing property owners having their property values raised because of the value of these tax abated properties or the increase in the attractiveness of the neighborhood for investment. The rise in property values can then result in a hardship for a low-or-moderate income homeowner that have been long-term residents of the neighborhood. It seems that if subsidies are to be given, these long-term homeowners are the ones that need reduced property taxes, not the relatively wealthier newcomers.

Cuyahoga County Board of Revision taking 2018 property valuation complaints

Following the 2018 sexennial reappraisal and concerns from property owners that their property values have risen, Cuyahoga County residents may now submit valuation complaints to the Board of Revision (BOR).

Taxpayers have until April 1, 2019 to file a complaint.

"Filing a complaint with the Board of Revision is your opportunity to sit down with the hearing board and present your case as to why your tax year 2018 property value is too high," said Shelley Davis, Administrator, Cuyahoga County Board of Revision.

There are several different ways to file a complaint. You can: 1.) E-File online, through email. This is the most efficient method. Online filing does not require notarization. 2.) Print a form and mail it in. Paper copies need to be signed and notarized. 3.) Visit the BOR office at 2079 East Ninth Street, Cleveland Ohio and fill out a complaint in person. There is usually a notary on site.

leadership of TWDC will stand by and support our decision privately and publicly."

Historically, block clubs are groups of people who have homes and families on any given block in the city, and have organized to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. A major outlet for community organizing, people in block clubs address concerns and share information. Block clubs generally strive to be inclusive of all people regardless of race, sex, religion, or economic standing. Civic action and political strength are key components of any successful block club.

Cleveland has some of the oldest block clubs in the country, dating back to the early 1940s, according to the Cleveland Historical website.

"In August 1940, residents on East 85th Street on Cleveland's east side decided to organize their efforts for

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Wednesday, January 23, 2019; Cuyahoga County Administration Building, 2019 E. 9th Street: Southside (Tremont) residents Melody Perry and Robert Mihalik protest increases in property valuations and huge increases in property taxes that are creating extreme hardship for many residents of Cuyahoga County.

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

visit: <https://bor.cuyahogacounty.us/>.

For a list of frequently asked questions, visit: <https://bor.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/FAQs.aspx>.

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Saturday, January 19, 2019, future home of H. Barbara Booker School at Halle School site: The Cleveland Metropolitan School District H. Barbara Booker School pre-k to grade 8 school will move to this new building in mid-February. The new school is located just south of Clark between W. 73rd and W. 82nd on Halle and Camden Avenues. The current H. Barbara Booker School at 2121 W. 67th Street will be boarded up for possible future use as a swing site.

LINCOLN HEIGHTS

continued from page 3

the betterment of their block and Mrs. Beatrice Beasley, a citizen of the street, founded the E. 85th Street Club.....The club was dedicated to doing good within its own block by holding an annual spring cleaning program, which entailed older members as well as the youth raking leaves, painting houses, whitewashing trees and curbs, and remodeling abodes. The organization also held a "Back to School" dance for the children, which included refreshments, prizes, and music disc-jockeyed by Eddie O'Jay, who was known for discovering and managing the R&B music group "The Mascots," later known as the legendary "O'Jays."

Both Lincoln Heights Block Club and Sustainable Community Associates agree that blocks clubs are essential to the health and well-being of the city.

Whether Rosen and his business partners encourage their non-landowner tenants to vote on matters that involve Sustainable Community Associates projects is not clear, but the implication is enough to cause a deep rift between the two organizations.

In the case of the residential complex on Awing Avenue, that decision could extend voting rights to more than 95 non-landowner residents, in comparison to a single owner of the complex which results in just one vote. Add to that the more than 57 non-landowner residents in the Wagner Awing Building, and it's easy to understand how the community makeup of the block club could shift dramatically from its current 100 members (27 with voting rights) to over 200 members, the majority of which would be non-landowners.

"We tried every way we could to include renters in our meetings, to be inclusive," said Patsy Kline, a property owner on Scranton Road, a few blocks from the development site. "Then we're told by the developers that none of their renters are even going to come to the meetings."

"How are we going to operate as a block club if Tremont West pulls its support from us?" asked resident, Randy Norfus, a professional photographer and one of several non-landowners actively involved with the block club.

As the crowd dwindled to just a few remaining residents after a long three-hour meeting, the question hung in the air.

Lincoln Heights Block Club plans to put the issue to a vote to its members at the March meeting. Depending on the outcome, they'll consider a course of action.

"We're portrayed as ignorant elitist," added Kline. "What's that all about?"

West Side Market losing vendors, leaving many market stands empty

by Chuck Hoven

A shopper visiting the West Side Market on Saturday, January 19th would have found many empty stands. Just a few short years ago, it would have been unheard of for there to be empty stands on a Saturday. Many of the empty stands are a result of merchants leaving the West Side Market and not being replaced by new merchants. Others were empty because of predictions of a heavy snow storm that would drive customers away. In years past, merchants would have weathered such a storm due to expected high customer volume on a West Side Market Saturday.

NEWS ANALYSIS

While many of the outdoor fruit and vegetable merchants have left the market, one fruit and vegetable merchant said that Manager of Markets Felicia Hall has told merchants she doesn't want the empty stands to be replaced by other fruit and vegetable merchants, she wants something different.

Mary Rose Oakar, a regular West Side Market shopper, says she

heard "there are people who want the stands but have been told they can't have them." She says she talked to Manager of Markets Felicia Hall and was told by Hall that she wanted more diversity at the market as the reason for turning down applications from new vendors. Hall could not be reached for comment.

Indeed, Hall has placed signs for New Vendors in the West Side Market that are calling for some non-traditional types of vendors. The signs say, "Products to be considered include: Fresh baked goods, Hot and cold non-alcoholic beverages, High-quality pre-packaged foods (salads, soups, various food bowls, etc.), Trees and plants, Holistic healing and beauty items made from food products (i.e. soaps, lotions, etc.), Cooking tools and utensils, Fresh produce from orchards and farms."

Diane Dever, who runs the Irene Dever stand, says of the large number of merchants leaving the market and City of Cleveland's New Vendors application, "It's just sad."

continued on page 8



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Saturday, January 19, 2019, West Side Market, W. 25th and Lorain Avenue: Many stands are vacant on a Saturday, something that was unheard of just a few years ago.

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FULTON ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

continued from page one

Above the hum of conical stainless-steel fermenter tanks, Sanchez introduced TRC Engineers, Inc., the principal designers of the rehabilitation project.

"Major changes include reconfiguring Bailey Avenue, pull the intersection into the road, remove steel bollards, and clean up the area in front of the cemetery," said a spokesperson from TRC. "The road will be removed, and the area will be a major site for the whole year."

The intent is to maintain one lane of traffic in the southbound lane at all times during construction, according to the nationally known engineering and consulting firm.

"Modern day pavement markings will organize traffic with one lane in either direction when the project is completed," they added, "and a bike lane will be added on each side."

Sixteen trees along the route including nine old growth will be removed to make way for the Terrace Construction equipment, a necessity to complete the project efficiently, within budget, and on time.

The issue of tree removal raised concern among some residents.

"What's the replacement plan for the trees?" a resident seated near the back of the room asked.

TRC paused a few seconds before answering. "There is no replacement plan for the trees....we're adding a grass lawn. The piece of equipment used to put the concrete down is wider than the road."

Concurrent construction along West 41st Street with one-way traffic northbound raised questions about whether motorists will have to find alternative routes to cross from Clark Avenue to Lorain Avenue.

"The plan is to have the County bridge on West 41st open for this detour to be in place. [The County] has confirmed they are going to have their project completed by February 1st," Sanchez explained. "Don't worry, we won't set up our construction until that sufficiently coordinated."

Deborah McKinney-Morgan was fine with the apparent construction schedule. She worried about access to her front door, with her house located on Chatham Avenue and Fulton Road, removal of the sidewalk meant she couldn't get in.

"I was one of the fortunate or unfortunate people that had gas lines put in. We don't have driveways where I live. When they tear up the sidewalks, they need to let us get into our homes. I had a deep trench in front of my door."

Terrace Construction Company responded that they would make sure residents can enter and exit their homes. "We'll try to notify everybody when we start tearing up the sidewalk. We're not going to do it in the middle of the night or anything. If we think there's an access issue, we'll get together with you and come up with a game plan," they said.

Traffic signal removal raised several issues about safety. Apparently, Federal guidelines were not met to keep the signals in place. Data

was collected at every intersection, according to a City of Cleveland spokesperson, including traffic, pedestrian, bike counts, and heavy vehicles, and the intersections where traffic signals will be removed didn't meet the thresholds needed for a signal.

"Having a signal where there shouldn't be one can cause safety concerns," they stressed. Signals on Bailey Avenue and Vega Avenue will remain while Chatham Avenue and Monroe Avenue will be removed.

John Weekley lives on Hancock Avenue. He's watched cars drive past his house at speeds well above the posted speed limit. Traffic signals help regulate the flow of traffic, he noted.

Not so, according to TRC.

"Traffic signals are not supposed to regulate traffic," TRC responded. "They're not used for speed control."

Weekley wasn't convinced. "I've been here decades. I travel Fulton Road many times a day. If you don't have a light at Monroe Avenue, you're asking for a huge mess. People come off that bridge and their cooking, man. I'm doing 35 and people are blowing passed me."

"We're changing the entire dynamics of the road," said Cecil Benson, Inspector for the City of Cleveland. "The goal of this project is to change the perception of Fulton Road as a throughway. We want people to respect the neighborhood."

Twelve-foot travel lanes and a six-foot bike lane on either side will reduce the width of the road from its current four lanes, to just two, plus the bike lanes. Bike lanes have been the subject of debate in road rehabilitation in recent years. Proponents in favor claim that bike lanes reduce traffic accidents while providing an alternative mode of transportation for cycle enthusiasts and those concerned about the environment. The cost of a five-foot bicycle lane can range from \$5,000 to \$535,000 per mile, with the average cost around \$130,000, according to experts. Critics of bike lanes complain about less parking and more congestion.

Requests for information on the cost of adding bike lanes along the one-mile route went unanswered by the Terrace Construction Company. Kristyn Zollos, Development Specialist at Metro West Development Corporation could not provide an exact figure.

Traffic detours will temporarily take customers away from local businesses. Removing traffic signals causes a different problem.

"They don't understand," said Weekley, shaking his head in disbelief. "Someone's going to get killed if they remove those traffic signals."

The meeting came to a close and people started to exit into the cold night.

"Probably doesn't matter," he added. "My property taxes increased 116% this year. I might have to sell my house. But that's another story."



Saturday, January 19, 2019, Market Plaza, Southeast Corner of W. 25th and Lorain Avenue: The Cleveland Plain Dealer and Cleveland.com reported on January 16th that Market Plaza shopping center has been sold for \$5.85 million. According to the article by Michelle Jarboe, the shopping center was purchased by an affiliate of Harbor Bay Real Estate Advisors, a Chicago-area developer. Plans call for demolishing the current shopping center and replacing it with a mixed-use development with 260 apartments, offices, retail space, and 560 underground parking spaces. The new development is targeted to open in the spring of 2021.

Three Non-Clothing Wardrobe Items that help Elevate Your Personal Style

by Silk Allen

We often have enough clothes in our closets, it's just knowing what to do with them that confuses people, and I'm here to help! I have three very important non-clothing fashion purchases that I am dying to tell you about because they will help elevate your personal style in a major way. A full-length mirror, velvet hangers and a steamer may seem like frivolous purchases, but let me explain how much they help and why they are worth every penny...

FASHION

Sometimes we just need a little extra help before and after we get dressed and if you want to make it a happy, non-stressful and time saving experience every day then you have to consider the entire process. Where you store your clothes is important because if you are reaching in and out of laundry baskets, rummaging through overstuffed drawers or throwing around mismatched hangers laden with random items, it can easily become a hassle that you want to avoid.

After you locate the blouse that you spent at least thirty minutes searching for (only to find it in a balled up heap in the back of your closet) you now have to drag out the cumbersome ironing board, struggle to set it up, wait for the iron to get hot and proceed to go through the motions of flipping and turning the garment over and over so it can look decent enough to wear.

Now the outfit is finally on- you are running late to work, get there and spend half the day happily chatting with coworkers when you decide to take a bathroom break and discover the cold hard truth in natural light that your outfit looks a mess! The back

of your shirt is a wrinkle fest, your blazer is actually navy blue instead of black like the skirt you chose, and the shoes look like you just didn't care.

Let's avoid any more scenarios like that from this point on and focus on the three items you need in your wardrobe that will help make getting dressed a smooth and seamless moment each day!

Full Length Mirror

We all need a full-length mirror! Not just to make sure our outfits match, but to see what shoes look best with an outfit, whether or not that skirt rises up in the back, if that shirt to pants ratio is right, or if the dress we are wearing hits at a flattering length - not to mention making sure that a garment isn't completely see through. You want to be sure that all of the components of your outfit work together, and the best way to do that is with a full-length mirror.

Velvet Hangers

Not only are velvet hangers aesthetically pleasing, they take up less space and protect your clothes better than wire hangers (No wire hangers!) and they won't damage and ruin your clothes over time. This small change gives your closet a clean, uncluttered and organized look just like your favorite boutique

and allows you to clearly see your fashion choices. Plastic and wood hangers are still okay for heavier items like bulkier fabrics and coats, but at least buy a set and place them together in the back of your closet.

Steamer

If you are like me and hate the whole process that comes with ironing, then you will love the steamer! A handheld steamer is inexpensive, easy to use, and will have you wrinkle free in minutes! It works on all fabrics and can even help stretch visits to the dry cleaners because the heat from the steam kills bacteria and removes odors. Steamers work for men's suits, curtains, sheets and any other material you can think of, so it is a very wise purchase. Just make sure that you use purified water, so you won't have mineral build up deposited onto your clothes.

We spend so much money investing in clothes and our overall look, but it's just as important to keep up with maintenance and storage as well. It saves us time, money and sanity in the long run and each of these items can be found in stores or online for less than thirty dollars a-piece. I think it is money well spent! Do you want more personalized wardrobe tips? Don't hesitate to email me lady silk@thehouseoffly.com!



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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, January 22, 2019; Cleveland Municipal School District Board of Education meeting, George Washington Carver School, 2200 E. 55th Street: Cleveland Metropolitan School District Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon, noting that January was School Board Recognition Month, thanked the School Board for their hard work in helping with the application for the Say Yes to Education program. Standing (L-R) Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon, Robert Heard, Shaletha Mitchell, Jasmine Fryer, Anne Bingham and Lisa Thomas. Seated (L-R): Willetta Milam, Louise Dempsey and Denise Link.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

continued from page one

500 additional mentors are expected to be needed for this year's graduating class. Several Cleveland School Board members committed to becoming mentors. For details on how to become a mentor or to donate money to the scholarship program, Gordon urged the public to visit the Say Yes Cleveland website at: www.sayyescleveland.org.

Board Member Lisa Thomas asked CEO Gordon how much of his time did he expect to be occupied with the Say Yes to Education Program. Gordon said he has committed to serving on an Operating Committee which will meet every two weeks for the first two years of the program. He will also help to host four public quarterly meetings about the program.

Gordon also talked about new software that will help collect data on students that the district and participating charter schools have agreed to provide as part of the Say Yes to Education program.

Gordon responded to a question about how families of students would be informed about the program, talking about videos being relayed to parents to upload and fliers to be sent home. He also noted that Cleveland Teachers Union President David Quolke has asked the union members to have all hands-on-deck

to help spread the word and inform families of the program.

Gordon noted that while the percentage of students graduating from high school in Cleveland has gone up, the number of students applying to go to college has declined. He suspected that is because students didn't believe they could afford to go to college. He said the *Plain Dealer* quoted a student saying prior to Say Yes to Education, "I was afraid to hope I could go to college. Now I can hope."

School Board President Anne Bingham said that during the Say Yes to Education kickoff ceremony at John Marshall High School she witnessed "adult people shedding tears." She said, "This is indeed a game changer for us in Cleveland."

The CEO's report and board questions were followed by questions and statements from the public with CEO Gordon and some Board of Education members responding in part to some of the statements and questions from the public.

Jim Pelikan asked the Board of Education to consider that portfolio models such as the Cleveland Plan have failed to equitably serve all students. He asked the Board of Education to look at their schools and ask "Who are we serving? Are we missing anybody?"

Pelikan reminded the Board of Education about the now defunct

Investment School Program that promised in 2012 that in five years all the District's 23 Investments Schools (deemed the worst performing schools in the system at the time) would be passing schools. He noted this had not come to pass.

Pelikan said he believes the Board of Education is the only body in the city equipped to examine this issue as to which children are not being served and which classes of students are being left out. He said the Board of Education, by examining the disparities in the distribution of resources, has a chance to make change that will serve all of Cleveland's children.

Elizabeth Coles said she was pleased to see the Say Yes to Education program underway. She said, back in the day, her children benefited from the Scholarship in Escrow Program, and she was disappointed when the district let it go.

Coles also spoke out against an agenda item that indicated giving the CEO a performance increase amounting to \$26,000 over his previous year's pay. Coles said some employees don't make \$26,000 a year. She cited the low graduation rate in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District as a reason not to give CEO Gordon a raise.

Don Freeman said "Mr. Gordon, I am here tonight to make an ultra-urgent request to you which must be initiated by your administration and include Paul Hoover (Redesign

Cleveland Metropolitan School District Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon shares Say Yes to Education details

by Chuck Hoven

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) is making a major effort to get the word out about the scholarships and social services that will be available to Cleveland students as a result of Cleveland becoming the fourth city in the nation to partner with the Say Yes to Education Foundation.

As part of that effort to get the word out about Say Yes Cleveland, CMSD Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon, CMSD Chief Communications Officer Roseann Canfora and CMSD Director of the CMSD News Bureau Thomas Ott met with staff of publications belonging to the Neighborhood and Community Media Association of Greater Cleveland on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 22nd prior to the evening Board of Education meeting.

Armed with a handout about Say Yes Cleveland, CEO Gordon explained which high school students will be eligible to receive the scholarships, outlined an agreement with over 100 private colleges to

participate in a higher education compact, and talked about the wraparound social services that will be having a greater presence in Cleveland schools as part of the Say Yes compact.

Gordon explained that the Say Yes Cleveland scholarships are available only to graduates of CMSD schools and partner charter schools who are residents living within the boundaries served by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Those graduates must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), said Gordon. The Say Yes Scholarship Fund is designed to pay for any tuition costs that are not covered by federal and state tuition aid for students whose family income is less than \$75,000 per year. For students with family income higher than \$75,000 per year, the scholarship fund will pay up to \$5,000 per year for tuition costs not covered by state and federal tuition aid, said Gordon. Each year students are receiving a

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Gene Tracy began his remarks by reminding CEO Gordon that according to the Union Contract he was obligated to meet with the Sunbeam teachers that petitioned for a meeting with him.

Tracy asked CEO Gordon how the district would select the 15% of schools that would receive Say Yes to Education wraparound services first.

CEO Gordon responded to this question, outlining the process on how schools can apply to be a Service Delivery School. He said CMSD faculty members will be attending an Academic Achievement Plan (AAP) meeting on February 4th. At the meeting they will receive a sheet with information on what is required for a school to be a Service Delivery School. The faculty will vote via their AAP as to whether or not they would like to be a Service Delivery School, said Gordon. If they vote yes, it will be considered an application to become one of the 15% of schools that will receive wraparound services next school year, he said.

Tracy also talked about the atrocity going on at the United States border with Mexico where children are being held hostage by the United States government. He asked the Board of Education to "imagine someone stealing money from babies and children?"

Tracy said, "For 10 years you let Mayor Frank Jackson steal \$1 million per year from Cleveland children and give it to the stadium and you said nothing. Let this be the year you say something."

Responding to Tracy's remarks, Board Member Dr. Lisa Thomas said she wanted to go on record as "opposing the caging of children and opposing the closing of the government." Tracy responded, "What about the Mayor's theft?" Dr. Thomas said, "One step at a time."

Board Member Robert Heard said he will be going to Washington D.C. to discuss educational policy with Congressional Representatives and Senators and the Secretary of Education. Heard said he will have an opportunity along with school board members from around the country to tell the government officials about concerns and problems that seem to go unheard. He called it insane to talk about devoting \$5.7 billion to building a wall when public education's needs for funding are not being met. Heard criticized President Donald Trump for not talking about public education at all. Heard also said there are "forces in the State of Ohio that are trying to dismantle public education."

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SAY YES CLEVELAND

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scholarship, they must complete a FAFSA application.

The other requirement Gordon mentioned is that students must be accepted to a qualifying post-secondary program and maintain a 2.0 average once in the program. According to the Say Yes to Education Scholarship FAQ -- scholarships are provided "up to the value of tuition to all public universities, community colleges and Pell-eligible certificate programs in Ohio -- as well as nearly 100 private colleges and universities in Ohio and across the nation." The Say Yes Scholarships cannot be used for non-tuition expenses such as room and board and books, but Gordon says students can apply for other scholarships for these expenses.

In their senior year of high school, the Say Yes Scholarship FAQ sheet says students will be assisted by school counselors and College Now of Greater Cleveland staff in creating a Say Yes to Education account. Through that account they can indicate their school interests (a two year or four-year college or Pell-eligible certificate program). Once they have decided which school they are enrolling in, they then update their account so payment of tuition can proceed. This year's high school seniors can log onto the scholarship portal at www.SayYesCleveland.org beginning on February 4, 2019. The scholarship portal will also offer lists of Ohio public four year and two-year and various certificate program postsecondary opportunities. In addition, it lists private colleges and universities participating in the Say Yes National Higher Education Compact, including 13 private schools in Ohio.

Gordon noted that the commitment of Say Yes Cleveland is to sustain the scholarship fund for the next 25 years. In order to assure the funds will be available for scholarships, the Cleveland community was asked to raise \$120 million dollars within the first 5 years of the program and to have a substantial portion of that available prior to the program beginning. Gordon said the Cleveland community raised \$90 million so far, more than was required by Say Yes to begin the program. He said he is sure Say Yes Cleveland will be able to raise the additional \$35 million over the next five years.

According to the Say Yes Cleve-

land Scholarship FAQ, the scholarships will be available for eight semesters of at least 12 credit hours per semester. Students are allowed, but not encouraged, to take a gap year after graduation from high school, however, they must enroll in a post-secondary program within a year of graduation from high school. Once they start their educational program, students have five years to complete the eight semesters of work.

Gordon says in addition to the Say Yes to Education monies available for funding tuition gap scholarships, a number of private colleges participating in the Say Yes to Education Program have offered full scholarships to Say Yes students to fill the gap between what federal and state grants pay and the tuition costs.

Gordon said current Cleveland residents who will graduate from a Cleveland Metropolitan School District school or affiliated charter school this year will be immediately eligible for a Say Yes Scholarship. According to the Say Yes to Education Scholarship FAQ that also applies to: "students in the graduating classes of 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, who meet the residency requirements as of January 18, 2019, - and are continuously enrolled in a Cleveland Metropolitan School District or eligible partnering charter high school through graduation." Beginning in 2023, to be eligible for scholarships students must reside in the boundaries of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District throughout their four years of high school.

Gordon says this residency requirement is designed to be an economic development tool to help encourage middle income families to move back to Cleveland. According to the FAQ sheet, "The goals of the Say Yes Cleveland are to increase education levels of Cleveland residents; boost and retain population in the city of Cleveland; improve college access for middle- and low-income families in Cleveland; and spur economic growth and expansion in the region."

While the Say Yes to Education Cleveland hopes to bring middle class families back to Cleveland, Gordon says the program has a component to help families that are already here. He said the plan is to eventually have a Family Support Specialist in every school.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, January 19, 2019; Cleveland Women's March, Cleveland Public Square: This dog joined in the Cleveland Women's March.

Cuyahoga County has agreed to use existing federal funds that it uses to serve district students to pay for the Family Support Specialists at every school, said Gordon.

In addition, CEO Gordon said the school district is looking to build on its partnership with MetroHealth and to add partnerships with other health care and mental health care service providers to offer more services to children and families.

Partnership with legal service providers, such as Legal Aid, will allow families receiving eviction notices to take them to school to seek advice on how to protect their rights, said Gordon. He noted the City of Cleveland announced a plan to combat lead poisoning that morning. He said renters concerned about their rights to live in a lead safe home could bring their concerns to an attorney at school.

Additional social services that are to be available in schools through the Say Yes to Education Model

include tutoring, after school programs and summer school.

Gordon said that the Say Yes to Education model requires that \$15 million be raised to go toward these wraparound services at all CMSD schools within six years. Gordon says CMSD plans to have the wraparound services in place within four years. The plan is to have 15% of the schools providing social services beginning next fall. Another twenty five percent of the schools in

the following school year and 30% more in each of the next two school years.

Several parts of the program will be unique to Cleveland. College Now of Greater Cleveland, which has many years of experience helping Cleveland students get into college, will partner with Say Yes to Education Cleveland to administer the scholarship program and an accompanying mentoring

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Community gathers to remember the second anniversary of the End of Watch for First District Cleveland Police Officer David Fahey

by Victoria Shea

For Officer Christ Porter, two years later he stills remembers the wave of blue that took over the city of Cleveland on the night his brother, 39-year-old David Fahey, had died in the line of duty.

"It was very important to know that the city appreciated him," Porter said, standing outside First District, on West 130th Street. "Two years later, it's still amazing."

Porter was just one of dozens of First District officers that evening that attended the candle light vigil

held on Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019 in remembrance of the second anniversary of Cleveland Police Officer David Fahey's end of watch.

"Two years ago, we were mourning his lost," said First District Police Commander Daniel Fay. "Tonight, is more a celebration of his life."

Starting in the lobby under the gaze of a blown-up version of Fahey's badge, #2453, before moving outside, Fay explained that it was important for him to make sure that the new officers under his command attended the vigil.

"It's important to remember David," said Fay. "The new officers here need to see that they have this extended family."

The vigil, which Porter said the community put together, holds special meaning for Fahey's family as David grew up in the First District and it was special for him to be assigned to his community.

"Community was important to him," Porter said. "And he was important to the community."

Editor's Note: A Photo Essay of the event can be found on our website, plainpress.wordpress.com



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, January 18, 2019, Third Friday at West 78th Street Studios, 1300 W. 78th Street, Googie Style Gallery: Artwork by artist Dave Crider.

SAY YES CLEVELAND

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program. Gordon says that each graduate receiving a scholarship will be matched with an adult mentor that will stay in touch with them via email reminders throughout their college education. Gordon says the mentor program is already underway in Cleveland will need to recruit additional adult college graduates to share their experiences with the college bound Cleveland students.

The Say Yes to Education Cleveland program, said Gordon, will be administered by Diane Downing, a veteran of both the George Voinovich and Michael White administrations in Cleveland and a key figure in efforts to build the Cleveland Browns stadium as well as bringing the Republican Convention to Cleveland.

Responding to questions about the expected number of graduates that will be eligible for this program, Gordon said that there are about 2,000 high school seniors graduating each year. Currently, about 75% of the CMSD high school students graduate within four years and about 80% graduate within five years, he said.

As far as monitoring the success of the program, CEO Gordon says that a national clearing house exists that helps track how students from each school system do in college. Gordon noted that currently there is no similar tracking available for students that may choose a non-college post-secondary programs that qualify for Say Yes Scholarships.

While he couldn't provide, off the top of his head, the current success rate for Cleveland students in college, he said the Say Yes to Education Program in Buffalo has shown persistent increases in the number of 2 year and 4-year college graduates from Buffalo students. Gordon said higher salaries for college graduates should result in a return of \$8.49 for every dollar spent on Say Yes to Education.

As for those students that do not graduate from high school, Gordon was asked "What percentage of those students were Special Needs students?" He was also asked if he thought the disproportionately large number of Special Needs students in the Cleveland schools could be attributed in part to lead poisoning.

While he did not have an answer as to how many of the students that did not graduate were Special Needs students, Gordon promised to have his staff research the answer for the *Plain Press*.

CEO Gordon said while there is no definitive study of students to determine if their lead poisoning lead to their Special Needs diagnosis, he said that an outside analysis of Cleveland's Special Needs students

had determined that "we do not have an over identification of minority students." However, he said that Cleveland had an unusually high number of Special Needs students diagnosed with "emotional disability." While he has no proof that lead poisoning caused the large population with "emotional disability", Gordon said that lead poisoning can result in loss of impulse control and other behavioral issues so you could surmise that it may be a factor.

Gordon says CMSD has several programs in place to help students with social emotional learning difficulties. However, he said lead poisoning is easier to deal with at earlier ages, he noted a program in Rochester, New York that is screening and intervening with children at an early age. Gordon hopes reducing lead poisoning in Cleveland will help reduce the high cost of intervention.

CEO Gordon said to the extent that Family Intervention Specialists brought on through Say Yes to Education can help families avoid crisis that lead to children going into foster care, the district can save money on expensive transportation for foster care kids. He said often these students are placed in the suburbs and the district is required to provide transportation for students to and from their suburban foster homes.

Honor a Loved One:

The Plain Press now offers In Memoriam notices for families to share the story of a departed love one in a remembrance. Families can choose from a variety of sizes to create a customized published eulogy to share with friends and neighbors.

For more information contact Plain Press Advertising Representative Ed Tishel at plainpressads@yahoo.com



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, January 18, 2019; Third Friday at West 78th Street Studios, 1300 W. 78th Street: This artwork, *Cleveland City Scape*, is on display at the Googie Style gallery in the basement of West 78th Street Studios. The artwork was created by artist Dave Crider using mixed metal pieces such as ceiling tiles, pieces of copper and brass, and miner's tags. Crider shares the gallery space with artist Margaret Daole.

WEST SIDE MARKET

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In addition to the losses of vendors in the fruit and vegetable stands, conditions inside the Market Building are dire as well. Rents are rising while service from the landlord is terrible. Diane Dever says their heaters were taken away a number of years ago and never replaced. She says, on cold days, the indoor merchants are working in stands where the temperature is in the 40s.

Another indoor market merchant, Annemarie Geffert of Annemarie's Dairy, left the West Side Market in January. Geffert, who grew up working at the West Side Market, said she was sad to go. She left a note in her stand saying good-bye to customers and her fellow merchants. Geffert, who ran her stand for 22 years, not only sold dairy products, but also provided specialty items for vegetarians and vegans.

Several years ago, then President of the West Side Market Merchant Association Vince Bertonaschi talked about the City of Cleveland wanting to make the West Side Market into a boutique for tourists rather than a see it continue in its tradition.

as a food market. That plan seems to be unfolding.

Bertonaschi also fought the City of Cleveland's Board of Zoning Appeals failure to enforce rules that required a certain number of parking places for new bars and restaurants locating in the neighborhood. The bars and restaurants instead were allowed to use the West Side Market's parking lot. This led to overcrowding in the lot with restaurant employees and customers parking in the lot for hours at a time. Many market customers could not find spaces in the lot during market hours. Bertonaschi said merchants were losing long time customers because of the inconvenience. Bertonaschi eventually closed his stand, Vince's Meats, – tired of fighting the landlord, the City of Cleveland, over poor service, raising rents and trying to push the market into being a tourist location rather than a food market.

Now, the City of Cleveland is charging for parking over 1 1/2 hours in the market parking lot. While this has cut down on many of the all-day parkers, it also makes what for many families was a morning at the West Side Market, a less attractive option. Visiting a neighborhood restaurant, leisurely talking to merchants while getting the week's groceries with the family in tow is being replaced by tourists and more of an in-and-out crowd trying to beat the time on the parking lot ticket.

WEST SIDE MARKET

Over 100 independent merchants offer a wide variety of fresh food for your family.

- Meats • Poultry
- Seafood
- Dairy • Eggs
- Fruits • Vegetables
- Pasta • Baked Goods
- Spices • Nuts • Oils
- Prepared Foods and Specialty products



For a list of our vendors visit: www.westsidemarket.org



CLEVELAND'S PUBLIC MARKET

The West Side Market

Tenants' Association welcomes you and your family to make the West Side Market your food shopping destination.

Open: Mon., Wed: 7AM- 4 PM

Fri & Sat: 7 AM-6 PM

Sun: 10 AM - 4 PM

Ohio Direction Card (EBT) and major credit cards accepted at most stands.

Easy access by RTA buses and rapid. Free parking in the rear of the market.