



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR
Sunday, March 17, 2019; St. Patrick's Church,
3602 Bridge Avenue: Bishop Roger Gries
celebrates St. Patrick's Day mass.

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Cleveland Metropolitan School District seeks public engagement in data driven facility planning process

by Chuck Hoven

Cleveland Metropolitan School District will be hosting a series of public meetings in April in hopes of getting public input on the latest

revision of its Master Facilities Plan. At the March 19th Cleveland Board of Education Meeting, Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) Chief Operating Officer Patrick Zohn

and the district's Chief Portfolio Officer Christine Fowler-Mack jointly presented a plan to gain public input on how to address building or rehabbing future school buildings with an eye toward aligning academic needs to the facility plans.

As part of the effort to include the public in the decision-making process, the CMSD is making a Citywide Analysis data base publicly accessible. According to Zohn and Fowler-Mack, the Citywide Analysis data base will include data on district, charter and some private schools. Data will be available on the local school building levels, the regional level or the district level. CMSD says the data base will include five-year enrollment forecasts. The hope is that the data base will help the public to look at enrollment choices, academic quality, program viability, building use and condition while plans are made on what schools will be included in future building plans.

The six regions outlined in the plan include three on the East Side of Cleveland and three on the West Side of Cleveland. The three regions on the West Side are West, Near West and Southwest. The West region includes the following neighborhood statistical planning areas: Clark Fulton, Brooklyn Centre, Stockyards and Old Brooklyn. continued on page 4



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Saturday, March 16, 2019; Ukrainian Museum-Archives, 1202 Kenilworth Avenue, Ukrainian Easter Egg "Pysanky" making workshop: Daria Mikol applies heated wax to create a design on her egg.

Lincoln Heights Block Club weighs in on proposal to amend its bylaws

by Bruce Checefsky

Following an hour-long debate on voting procedures, with removal of the inherent property rights clause in their voting regulations at stake, Lincoln Heights Block Club Chairperson Henry Senyak cast the tie-breaking vote at the block club's March 11th meeting to send the inclusion clause request back to Tremont West Development Corporation without support.

A motion was made to strike the paragraph restricting rights to real property owners from the by-laws by Jane Knoublock and seconded by Jack Duirk. With 4 yes votes, 4 no votes, and two abstentions, it was clear from the final tally that Lincoln Heights Block Club had won the fight at least for now.

According to Senyak, their voting membership recently dropped to 22, with 4 members out of compliance because of the 3 meetings in the past 12 months requirement. They'll need 17 of 22 present from their voting list to have the special quorum and a 2/3 majority, or 11 yes votes,

of the 17 present at the meeting, to amend the by-laws.

In October 2018, Josh Rosen and partners Naomi Sable and Ben Ezinga from Sustainable Community Associates sent TWDC Executive Director Cory Riordan a letter calling for a review of the Lincoln Heights Block Club by-laws and voting policy for non-landowners, asking to revoke their sponsorship of the block club if the policy wasn't changed to include all of the neighborhood residents (renters, too) and making it clear Sustainable Community Associates would no longer attend monthly meetings or seek Block Club approval for future development plans. The real estate developer company claimed that the Block Club policy was "steeped in the history of classicism and racism in America," and "runs contrary to any shared values of organizing values of organizing an inclusive community", just falling short of saying the current policy promotes discrimination and ultimately dis- continued on page 4



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Saturday, March 16, 2019; Ukrainian Museum-Archives, 1202 Kenilworth Avenue, Ukrainian Easter Egg "Pysanky" making workshop: Instructor Linda Lishchuk Hupert demonstrates how to reveal the final design by melting off the wax after the final dye bath.

Ohio City Incorporated celebrates its annual meeting

by Bruce Checefsky

Food brings people together, so does handing out awards to community leaders for contributing to the well-being of the neighborhood. That's exactly what Ohio City Incorporated did at their annual meeting held on March 19 at the Urban Community Center. With nearly 100

attendees crowded into the lecture hall, OCI Executive Director Thomas McNair took a look back on everything that had been accomplished in their organization and in the community over the past decade.

A reception prior to the meeting and awards ceremony brought together city officials, community

leaders and residents of Ohio City in a celebration of renewal and growth for the oldest neighborhood in Cleveland.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Along with the many accomplishments credited by Ohio City, Inc. to building a stronger community, new continued on page 7



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Sunday, March 17, 2019; Franklin Circle Christian Church, 1688 Fulton Road: Franklin Circle Church honors lifetime members of the church's Christian Women's Fellowship: (L-R) Leila Streidl, Sharon Thomas, Mary Brogan (and Norma Stearns – not shown). The Franklin Circle Church Christian Women's Fellowship raised funds to help repair the church and to help those in need with utility bills and household furnishings.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, March 16, 2019; Ukrainian Museum-Archives, 1202 Kenilworth Avenue, Ukrainian Easter Egg “Pysanky” making workshop: (L-R) Annie Dempsey and Maureen Feller use pencils to begin drawing designs on their eggs.



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

TRANSFORMER STATION, 1400 W. 29TH Street: Gallery Talk: Raúl de Nieves Fina. Enjoy a guided tour of the exhibit on Saturday April 6, 2 p.m. English, 3 p.m. Spanish; or Thursday April 11, 6:30 p.m. English, 7:30 p.m. Spanish. Free. Registration required. Call the Cleveland Museum of Art to register at 421-7350. **ART HOUSE, 3119 Denison Avenue, Community Culture Night with Petra Gruber: April 26th, 7:00-8:30 p.m.** A free “artist” lecture where an innovator, thinker or artist is invited to talk about their work and what inspires them in a

relaxed environment.

DANCE MASTERY PROGRAM: Cuyahoga Community College offers a free dance classes for youths ages 6-18 at the Broadway School of Music and Arts, 5415 Broadway Avenue. For more information call 987-6145 or register online at www.tri-c.edu/caaregister **LES DELICES** offers admission to LD@PLAY: Mother Nature Makes Music on April 6th at 3 p.m. at the Bop Stop, 2920 Detroit Avenue. For more information call 216-302-8404 or email: info@les-delices.org. **SPACES**, at 2900 Detroit Avenue, offers

free gallery admission. Its hours are Tuesday through Friday from Noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays- open until 8 p.m. Free gallery tours available upon request.

COMMUNITY

WESTOWN COMMUNITY MEETING: Ceramic Artist Angelica Pozo will present her final art for the ceramic tiles for the new Dollar General Store at 12418 Bellaire Road on April 1st at Second Calvary Church Hall, 12017 Emery Ave at 5:30 p.m.

HAPPY DOG TAKES ON THE WORLD: Why and how Americans should care about Yemen: Tuesday, April 2nd from 7:30 p.m.-8:45 p.m. at the Happy Dog, 5801 Detroit Ave. Join Cleveland Peace Action as WCPN's Tony Ganzer talks with Stacey Philbrick Yadav, a member of the executive committee of the American Institute of Yemeni Studies.

THE CLEVELAND WEST SIDE VILLAGE: On Saturday April 13th The Cleveland West Side Village will have a presentation from the Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) on how to make decisions on long term care and on the services offered by the LTCO. The program will be held at Cogswell Hall, 7200 Franklin Blvd., registration and coffee at 9:30 a.m., speaker at 10 a.m.

CLEVELANDERS FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT will hold its next Fair Fares Advocacy Committee meeting on Monday, April 8th at 7 p.m. in the All Aboard Ohio Office in Tower City above American Greetings (the corner office near the 2nd level food court.) If new to Fair Fares RSVP to Alanna Faith, Co-Chair at 2alannafait@gmail.com for background info.

CLEVELANDERS FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT will hold its next Riders Meeting and Election on Monday April 15th at 6 p.m. in the All Aboard Ohio Office in Tower City above American Greetings (the corner office near the 2nd level food court.) Nominations for the Coordinating Committee election will be accepted by email until April 1st at clefortransit@gmail.com **SECOND DISTRICT POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Max Hayes Senior Frank Austin named Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland 2019 Youth of the Year

Frank Austin, a senior at Max S. Hayes High School and a youth leader in the Slavic Village neighborhood, has been named the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland's Youth of the Year for 2019.

Frank, 18, who attends the Broadway Club and is a junior staff member there, was honored at a March 15th BGCC Breakfast of Champions and Youth of the Year Recognition event at Cuyahoga Community College.

Frank, who will now move on to state competition April 5-6 in Perrysburg, Ohio, said he was angry and in need of direction when he and his siblings lost their mother unexpectedly four years ago.

"I found that direction at Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland," he said. "They had everything -- a basketball court, games, computers, books and music. Most importantly, it was a place where I could just be a teen."

At the March 15th event, Cuyahoga Community College President Alex Johnson gave the keynote address and was honored as Youth Champion of the Year. Master of ceremonies was WEWS anchor Frank Wiley.

Event sponsors were Tri-C and Medical Mutual.

Frank has been an honor roll student and a P-16 Youth Leader for

Slavic Village Development. In addition, he co-facilitated "Stop the Hate" events at his Club and diagnosed mechanical problems during Ohio City's Bike Co-Op's Bike-a-Thon. He was also named MVP of the Senate golf league two years in a row. For the past two years, Frank has been an intern at Liberty Ford.

Interim Club Director Shanelle Moon says she was "in awe of Frank's ability to be resilient" after the death of his mother when he was 14. She says Frank "is no poster child for a sob story. He is one of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland's greatest success stories in the making. Frank has an unmatched work ethic. This kid was waking up at 5 a.m. Monday through Friday, getting his younger siblings ready for school, taking two buses and a rapid to get to school."

All four Youth of the Year finalists received scholarships from Cleveland Indians Charities. In addition, Frank was awarded a full scholarship to Matrix Trade Institute and a mechanics position in Liberty Ford's service operations upon successful graduation from the 20-week program. Frank was also awarded a scholarship from the BGCC Women's Board and received a special gift from Spectrum Reach.

MEETING: Tuesday, April 9th at 6:30 p.m. at Applewood Centers, 3518 W. 25th (In the gym on Daisey.)

WARD 14 COMMUNITY MEETING: Thursday, April 25th, 6-7 p.m. at Family Ministry Center, 3389 Fulton Road.

COMMUNITY ACTION

CLEVELAND LEAD ADVOCATES FOR SAFE HOUSING (CLASH) is looking for registered voters in Cleveland to sign or help circulate petitions to place a Lead Safe Initiative on the November Ballot. To learn where to sign a petition, and how to circulate a petition go to: <https://action-network.org/campaigns/clash-cleveland-lead-advocates-for-safe-housing/>

EDUCATION

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT is seeking public input to its Citywide Analysis for Long Term Planning for its schools. Meetings are scheduled in each of the six regions of the school district. In the West Region which includes Clark Fulton, Brooklyn Centre, Stockyards and Old Brooklyn neighborhoods the meeting will be held on Saturday, April 6th at 1:30 p.m. at Max Hayes High School, 2211 W. 65th Street. In the Near West Region which includes the Tremont, Ohio City, Detroit Shoreway, Cudell-Edgewater and West Boulevard neighborhoods there will be two meetings: Thursday April 11th and Thursday April 18th, both meetings will be at Garrett Morgan High School, 4016 Woodbine, at 6 p.m.. In the Southwest Region, which includes the Jefferson, Bellaire Puritas, Kamms and Hopkins areas the meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 17 at 6 p.m. at New Tech West School at 11801 Worthington. For more information visit: QualitySchoolsforCLEkids.org.

COMMUNITY FORUM ON EDUCATION FUNDING: On April 16, 2016, the Ohio Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will host a community forum to gather public testimony on the civil rights impact of education funding allocations in Ohio. The meeting on April 16 will be from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at DoubleTree Suites, Columbus Downtown, River Conference Room, 55 South Front Street, Columbus, OH 43215. The meeting is free and open to the public. No appointment or registration is necessary, however, you must sign up onsite to speak. Please come to share your experiences. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to Mwojnaroski@user.gov by May 16, 2019.

CLEVELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING: April 23 at 6:30 p.m. at John Adams High School, 3817 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

ENVIRONMENT

CUYAHOGA RECYCLES OFFERS YOUTH GROUPS CLEAN UP CUYAHOGA KITS: Clean Up Cuyahoga kits include recycling bags, garbage bags, cloth gloves, car litter bags, seed packets, educational materials

and promotional items. Groups and schools can request kits for up to 30 participants. Any adult representative of a school or youth group may request a clean-up kit by completing a short form at this link: https://cuyahogarecycles.org/clean_up_cuyahoga. Cuyahoga Recycles can also loan additional supplies like large shovels, garden shovels, litter pick-up tools, safety vests and additional garden gloves for large groups or group plantings.

HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC WASTE IN LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES: Saturday, April 6 at 1 p.m. at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, E. 45th and Superior Avenue.

CLEVELAND DIVESTMENT PROJECT: Monday, April 8 at 7 p.m. at 3523 West Blvd. Help individuals and communities divest from fossil fuels.

THE GREEN NEW DEAL: Why we need an emergency mobilization to fight climate change and economic inequality. Speaker: David Beach, writer/ environmental activist and former director of the GreenCityBlueLake Institute. Peace@ThePub: Tuesday, April 9 at 7 p.m. at Market Garden Brewery, 1947 W. 25th. Free and open to the public. For more information email: clevelandpeaceaction@gmail.com or call 216-393-7986.

CLIMATE ACTION HOUSE PARTY with Author/Activist Ed Fallon on Thursday, April 11 from 6-9 p.m. at 3506 Clinton Ave. Fallon, an organizer of the Great Climate March in 2104 will talk about the march and offer his book for sale.

HOW TO FORM A SOLAR POWER BUYERS COOP: The Cuyahoga County Department of Sustainability, the non-profit Solar United Neighbors of Ohio and Great Lakes Brewery are sponsoring a free informational seminar for people interested in getting solar power for homes and businesses. The event will take place on Wednesday April 24 from 6 pm til 8 pm in Great Lakes Brewery's Tasting Room at 2701 Carroll Avenue. Learn about this emerging green technology without having to listen to a high-pressure sales pitch. Learn how to save money on solar power by forming a buyer's co-op.

EMPLOYMENT

WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES EVENING PROGRAM: Individual Job Assistance/ Financial Literacy. Tuesday Evenings 6-8 p.m.at 3209 Lorain Avenue (Please enter through the back door.)

FOOD

GREATER CLEVELAND FOOD BANK: Call 738-7239, or visit GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org for food assistance. For Information about Food Stamps (SNAP) applications, food pantries, free produce, and hot meals text FOOD to 63566. **FREE FRESH PRODUCE:** Third Thursday of each month at Cudell Recreation Center, 11 a.m. – 1p.m.

continued on page 11

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Cuyahoga County Public Library
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Garfield Heights, OH 44125


A boxed meal will be provided. Registration required.
Deadline: Tuesday, April 23

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or email:
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Call (216) 664-2833 or email Aging@city.cleveland.oh.us for more information and assistance

Para recibir asistencia en español puede llamar al 216-420-7616

This program is made possible through a grant from the Ohio Department of Aging, through the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging

Cuyahoga County officials offer Tax Reassessment/Outreach to Homeowners

by Bruce Checefsky
Out numbering homeowners in a display of unflinching determination, Cuyahoga County representatives lined the meeting room at Westshore Opportunity Center on February 20th with folding tables and chairs, brightly colored banners, and packets of information to assist local residents seeking relief for their recent property tax assessments. Among the county departments on hand were Cuyahoga County Senior and Adult Services, Board of Revisions (BOR), Homestead Exemption Program, Delinquent Tax Outreach Program, and Cuyahoga County Consumer Affairs.

With potentially tens of millions of dollars at stake on both sides, the show of government support put on by the county did little to convince the crowd that relief was in sight. Homeowners have seen a spike in their property taxes anywhere from 25% to 350%, an example of just how inconsistent the assessed value process appears on paper. In reality, it's even more disturbing. The elderly and those on a fixed income are most vulnerable and, according to some, most likely to lose their homes or be forced to move if voter-approved levies and state lawmakers continue to fully fund public schools. Higher property taxes mean less to spend on basic necessities such as food and utilities, a tipping point in a period of financial stress that's forcing some to consider moving outside Cuyahoga County.

"Something has to be done," said Melody Perry, a Tremont homeowner. "The economy isn't going to force people to lose their homes. The increase of property taxes will. We can't afford it. I want to leave the city when I decide to go. I don't want to be forced out. I've worked my whole life to have a home."

State lawmakers have ignored property tax issues for years and done little to ease the problem. In his campaign speeches from last year, Governor Mike DeWine declared that lower taxes make Ohio more attractive to people and new investments. He also said that a fair tax rate lowers the burden on job creators and families. But no one expects Governor DeWine to listen to low and middle-income taxpayers any time soon.

However, seniors aged 65 (+) can apply for the Homestead Exemption Program, a credit/exemption on the first \$25,000 of taxable value. Veterans get a credit/exemption on the first \$50,000 of taxable value. To qualify for the exemption, applicants must be an Ohio resident at least 65 years old, or totally and permanently disabled; a Veteran who has been determined to have a total service related disability of 100%; or 59 years old and the widow/widower of someone who previously qualified.

Homeowners must meet a threshold income of \$32,800 for 2019.

Forty-six states use homestead tax exemptions to decrease the real estate tax burden on homeowners. Overall, across Ohio, qualified homeowners saved an average of about \$495 per taxpayer during the 2015 tax year.

Homestead Exemption Program applicants must file by December 31st of 2019 for the 2019 tax year. The form is available on the Department of Taxation's website and is also available from county auditors. (https://www.tax.ohio.gov/portals/0/forms/real_property/dte_105a.pdf)

"It's a simple process," said Donna Carter, from the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer. "For those that don't fall within the income restrictions, if Social Security is your only source of income, there's an addendum form which you attach to the application. Once you're on the Homestead Exemption, you just file a continuing form yearly."

The Dayton Daily News reported in 2017 that filings for the homestead property tax exemption were at a 10-year low, with the total number of participants in the program declining for three consecutive years. State imposed income limits to reduce the cost of Homestead Exemption have made the program more restrictive while massive tax breaks continue for many wealthy older Ohioans.

"My property taxes doubled this year," said Melissa Daubert, a self-employed artist/homeowner who lives in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood for the past 22 years. "I've never had to deal with something like this before. And realistically, I expect nothing will be done about it. I'm hoping they made a mistake."

"They're selling condos in my neighborhood for \$500,000," said Steven, a portrait painter living near Franklin and 65th Street. "If you fix up your house, you end up paying the county more taxes. It's ridiculous. They can squeeze money out of you without any recourse."

Nancy McCormick has been a resident of Clinton Avenue for more than 35 years. "My taxes tripled," she chimed in. "I want someone to explain why my taxes are so high when my neighbors are less than mine."

"Supposedly, the entire county went up by about 10%," added Stephen. "Our neighborhood in the Detroit Shoreway alone went up by more than 90% in many appraisals. It's not fair."

A majority of property owners were there to file a Complaint Against The Valuation Of Real Property, the requisite one-page form needed to schedule a hearing with the Board of Revision. Shelley Da-

vis, Administrator for the Cuyahoga County Board of Revision, said that several applications were successfully submitted that evening. "The burden of proof is on the homeowner," she added. "Show us that you have water in the basement, or the windows are busted in the attic, or you have an obsolete kitchen or bathroom, or your foundation is cracked."

Michael Sweeney, Tax Administrator for the Cuyahoga County Treasury Department, explained why it was important for the county to host a community meeting with local property owners at Westshore Opportunity Center.

"We're reconstituting some of the community outreach programs as opportunities to talk to our customers," he said. "This particular event this evening at Westshore Opportunity Center was organized because the reappraisal process has been at the center of conversation and concern for our property

owners. The original conversation was to have representatives from the county come to the west side to talk about the Board of Revision process and the absolute right that property owners have to pursue that complaint process."

Lisa Rocco, Director of Operations for the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office, reiterated that the sole purpose of the meeting with county officials was to help and support residents in filing the proper paperwork to have their property reassessment reviewed by the Board of Revision.

Providing evidence regarding your property's evaluation is an essential part of the process. The more evidence the better, according to Rocco. Examples of types of evidence include an arms-length sale, documented by recorded deed, closing statement purchase contract and/or conveyance fee statement; professional appraisal report of the subject property made for tax valuation purposes; certified estimates

from a contractor for repairs cited on the complaint; dated interior/exterior photos of the property and comparable properties showing the condition; and new construction costs certified by the builder. This should include both materials and labor costs. The deadline for submitting a complaint form is April 1st.

Evidence can be submitted in person at 2079 E. 9th Street, 2nd Floor, Cleveland, or by mail at to 2079 E. 9th Street, 2nd Floor, Cleveland OH 44115. Email at BORinfo@cuyahogacounty.us, or fax 216-443-8282.

"We don't want you to lose your house," Rocco added. "It's been hard to see the faces of people affected by this. We provide outreach to help homeowners with the difficulty of the process."

As the community meeting came to an end, Rocco stood with her arms folded and reflected on the evening event. "I've been in public service all my life. My dad was in public service. I was raised in it and its part of who I am. If I can help just one person, it's well worth it. I love meeting and talking to people."

Medicaid expansion recipients in danger of losing coverage

Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE) urges action on Ohio Senate bills that would undermine Medicaid expansion.

In late April of 2018, The Ohio Department of Medicaid submitted a request to the federal government to create work requirements for those covered through the expansion of Medicaid.

Approximately 3 million Ohioans receive Medicaid, of those 3 million, approximately 710,000 are part of the expansion group. Medicaid expansion, created in 2014 under the Affordable Care Act, offers Medicaid to adults aged 18-64 with incomes up to 138% of Federal Poverty Level, which equates to \$17,236 for an individual in 2019.

The federal government has approved the state of Ohio's request to adopt Medicaid expansion work requirements. These newly adopted work requirements require expansion enrollees to work at least 20 hours a week.

In addition to the approved work requirements, Senators David Burke and Matt Huffman have proposed further legislation, Senate Bills 60 and 25, which have the capacity to further undermine Ohio's Medicaid program for expansion enrollees.

Senate Bill 60 proposes work requirements for enrollees up to age 50 and would require co-payments and premiums for occasions when a patient sees a specialist. SB 25 on the other hand would require that expansion enrollees up to age 65 work.

Unfortunately, many expansion enrollees may lose Medicaid for not complying with the new and proposed eligibility requirements. NOBLE believes the funds required to administer the Medicaid work requirements would be better

spent providing needed health care services and creating employment opportunities.

NOBLE stands in opposition of Senate Bill 60, Senate Bill 25, and any efforts to undermine Medicaid, we ask for your help in stopping these two bills.

NOBLE asks that you contact the offices of the following Senators serving on the Health, Human Services Medicaid Committee and ask them to oppose SB 25: **Senator David Burke** (614-466-8049), **Senator Stephen Huffman** (614-466-8049) and **Senator Nickie Antonio** (614-466-5123).

NOBLE asks that you contact the offices of the following Senators serving on the Senate Finance Committee and ask them to oppose SB 60: **Senator Matt Dolan** (614-466-8056), **Senator David Burke** (614-466-8049) and **Senator Vernon Sykes** (614-466-7041).

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April 8-11 (Mon.- Thur.)..... 12 noon - 6 pm

April 12 (Friday)..... 10 am - 8 pm

April 13 (Saturday)..... 10 am - 5 pm

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cuyahoga arts & culture

strengthening community

Five Spring Fashion Trends That You Actually Want to Wear

by Silk Allen

I smell the promise of spring in the air: the days are getting lighter, brighter and longer and there's that collective look of hope that we give each other as we pass by strangers on sidewalks while crunching dirty snow under our salt stained boots hoping that this will be the last day...

And the stores we love are getting in on the act by stuffing racks to the capacity with clearance items and markdowns in order to make way for new season staples and must have items that we can't imagine wearing while still bundled up in puffer coats and scarves.

FASHION

However, we don't have long to go and I wanted to be the first one to give you a heads up on a few of the most popular and easiest to wear looks because although fashion trends come and go each season, sometimes we don't know what will be a hit or a miss until we try it ourselves or see it on our stylish peers.

The runway is full of fun ideas and fantasy fashions that are not expected to be worn in the streets, but every once in a while, a few key trends will pop up that will certainly add spice to your wardrobe! Here are 5 trends that will go on sale at

your favorite store and are actually universally flattering.

Sorbet and Neon Colors: The future's looking bright and colorful with a focus on pastels and loud colors. Stick to tailored silhouettes for the baby blues and pale pinks, and try a bold electric purple clutch, or a hot pink heel. Standout colors include a pistachio shade of green and a show stopping, Day-Glo orange hue that I haven't seen since the 90's.

Boilersuits: Jumpsuits have been all the rage for the last few seasons and with good reason! They work for almost any occasion, can be dressed up or down and it's a one and done no brainer outfit that doesn't take much else to work. The boilersuit is the cooler, sophisticated older cousin of the jumpsuit that smokes cigarettes and causes sartorial scenes at the local McDonald's. You should get one.

Wide leg pants: Raise your hand if you are tired of squeezing into skinny jeans and leggings- thank the fashion gods for wide leg pants and joggers! Ladies, put the skinnies and yoga pants on hold and pull up a pair of wide leg pants in a variety of fabrics (including denim) or easy to wear jogger pants so that you can stylishly and effortlessly run errands in.

Tie Dye: Guess what print is back- but not in that obnoxious hippy dippy generic t-shirt way- tie dye! But this time around, the psychedelic print is featured on luxury fabrics and embellishments, and looks grown up, compared to the DIY rubber band version. Although that still looks pretty cool to me too, especially when worn with a denim mini skirt and a pair of lace up sandals.

Shorts: I know there is somebody reading this right now who hasn't

worn shorts since the 80's and don't plan on starting now. However, now would be a good time to change your mind because they have a fit for everybody- cycling shorts for the super bold, slouchy Bermudas for the artsy type, and tailored knee length duchess satin versions for the super fancy set that likes to dress their shorts up.

So now that you have your Spring 2019 Trend Guide, please don't go run out to the nearest mall or plop

yourself in front of the closest online shopping cart. Tuck your debit card away for a quick moment, and shop your closet instead. See what you can dig out the back of your closet and do a little spring cleaning on the sly to make room for the newest trends. Out with the old and in with the new! And as always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to hit me up ladysilk@thehouseoffly.com or follow me on Instagram for more fashion and style advice @alltheflythings.

LINCOLN HEIGHTS BLOCKCLUB

continued from page one

courages renters to participate in community service like volunteering to keep the streets clean and safe.

Tremont West Development Corporation has made repeated requests for Lincoln Heights Block Club to remove the inherent property rights clause in their voting regulations and comply with the inclusion clause or face consequences which could include a reduction or completely defund the long-standing community block club. Lincoln Heights is the only block club in the City of Cleveland with by-laws that prohibits voting on inherent property rights by non-owners of real property.

"This is a community group," stressed Rosen. "We're not the Board of Zoning Appeals, we don't have legal standing. Restricting voting to only people that own property, that's not my values. There's a larger principal here. Are renters able to participate in a community group, in all the ways owners can, or not?"

Rosen admitted that his lease structures tend to support a more transient population, with general leases starting at one-year, followed by a month-by-month lease, leading opponents to call into question whether or not such a population has the best interest of longtime residents in mind when voting on neighborhood issues, especially involving building and new construction projects.

"If people are only going to be here a year before they move on, they're not invested in the community," said Knoublock. "They're here because it's convenient for work or school but eventually they leave."

Randy Norfus presented a different viewpoint. "I've lived here for 15 years as a non-property resident. I don't expect to vote on things involving property," he said. "I don't own any property so why would I vote on it? I'm here to work on things other than that. I don't have anything against homeowners. I want the best for them. In a way, we're turning on each other when we should be working together."

A large majority of the Lincoln Heights Block Club members silently protested the vote by refusing to attend the meeting. Only eleven members of the one hundred twenty-membership owners and non-owners of real property showed up to participate in the discussion, with just a handful eligible to vote on property issue including Chairperson Senyak. Once the vote to retain the current by-laws restricting rights on inherent property was passed, a motion was made to amend the amendment by allowing a designated representative to vote in place of the property owner, suggesting such a move would require notification to the Block Club in advance, either in writing or email.

The proposed amendment also suggested that the Block Club Chairperson retains the right to wave the three meeting in twelve-month period requirement to vote on inherent property rights in an apparent attempt to negotiate with TWDC's request to do away with the

exclusivity clause altogether in favor of a more inclusive voting process.

In an unusual request to pass a third amendment for the evening, Senyak asked for a motion to table discussion on by-laws for at least twelve months starting in April, essentially proposing a moratorium on open debate about by-laws, or until such time that it deem appropriate to have another debate. Several members expressed concern that an amendment to restrict the discussion on amendments was counterproductive and contradicts the essential principal of the Block Clubs policy on open discussion.

"So that we don't fracture the Block Club more than it already is, I would like someone to make a motion that we do not talk about by-law amendments for twelve months,"

**--Henry Senyak
Lincoln Heights
Block Club Chairperson**

"So that we don't fracture the Block Club more than it already is, I would like someone to make a motion that we do not talk about by-law amendments for twelve months," said Senyak.

Knoubek made the motion; Georgiann Franko seconded it.

Rosen asked for clarification. "How does that work? Is there anything in our by-laws that prevents someone from raising an issue?"

Senyak conceded that Rosen had a valid point and he would address his concerns despite the fact that a vote had just taken place.

"We're not going to discuss amendments to our by-laws," added Helen Ibrahim.

A motion to table discussion on amendments was made in the face of an already tallied vote count, with a second vote on the same issue

Cleveland School Board names new schools -- Halle & Waverly

The Cleveland Board of Education decided on the names of two newly constructed schools at its March 19th meeting.

Beginning the 2019-2020 school year the newly constructed school at 7901 Halle Avenue will be called Halle School. H. Barbara Booker School moved to the Halle School site in mid-February of this school year from its former location at 2121 W. 67th. The resolution notes that

about to take place minutes later, causing confusion among members about which amendment was up for vote.

"It's not in accordance with our by-laws," said Rosen. "Doesn't anyone else see the irony in this?"

"I'm confused," added Norfus. "I thought the provisions meant that you were going to talk about amendments for the by-laws so that it would make sense to everybody involved in this. In other words, if you don't talk about amendments for the by-laws then why even have by-laws?"

Senyak commented that people were tired of talking about by-laws. As chairperson, he wants to get as many people in the seats as possible at the next meeting. Giving the conversation a rest would bring them back to regular meetings, he suggested

"Members are sick and tired of talking about this," said Senyak, inferring that TWDC was responsible for bringing the issue to the Block Club in the first place. The results of the evening vote were the wishes of the people attending the meeting, Senyak pointed out, and may or may not be the wishes of the community at large. A compromise between TWDC and Lincoln Heights Block Club may be difficult to reach given the sharp ideological differences.

"The reality is that in five years, Josh Rosen may have more renters that vote on block club issue, in terms of our policies moving forward, and again, why shouldn't we just one big happy family and try to find the things we have in common and use those things to bind us rather than find the things that divide us," said Rufus.

A second vote on the amendment to restrict conversation on by-laws for the next twelve months failed with three votes in favor of the moratorium, five no votes and two abstention, effectively keeping the discussion as active as needed.

"I don't know why we're so different than almost any other community group," observed Rosen.

the previous school located on that site from 1931-2010 was called Halle School.

Beginning in the 2019-20 school year the newly constructed school at 1805 W. 57th shall be named Waverly School. The school will house the combined student populations of Waterson Lake and Waverly schools. The Waverly students are now attending Waterson Lake School at 1422 W. 74th which will be closed when the new school opens.

CMSD FACILITY PLANNING PROCESS

continued from page one

The Near West region includes Tremont, Ohio City, Detroit Shoreway, Cudell-Edgewater and West Boulevard. The Southwest Region includes Jefferson, Bellaire Puritas, Kamms and Hopkins.

Residents wishing to look at the data base online can visit the CMSD website at: QualitySchoolsforCLE-kids.org. The site contains an interactive map, Citywide Analysis, and an opportunity to provide feedback. The site also includes listings of the public meetings in April. (For information on dates, times and locations of meetings, see Page 12 and the Plain Press Community Board on page 2.)

A number of schools in the Plain Press service area were slated for new facilities or renovation under the current Master Facilities Plan that would be revised during this planning process. The schools that will be reviewed under this process include Marion C. Seltzer, Joseph Gallagher, Tremont Montessori, Clark

and Denison elementary schools and Lincoln West High School.

In response to a question by Board of Education member Shaletha Mitchel about what has been learned from the data so far, CMSD Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon said, "In the public and charter K-8 schools, there are far more seats than students." He said that with this data available, the school district now knows how many excess seats are in each region.

Gordon said the data can also help with building high schools to the size appropriate for the projected student population. Gordon noted that the district does not yet know the impact the Say Yes to Education Program will have on enrollment. He said regular updates of the Citywide Analysis will help planners and the public see enrollment changes.

Gordon said the Citywide Analysis will help with the long-term maintenance and refreshment of facilities. He said the district now has "much more crisp data and data we can share publicly."

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Cudell Improvement celebrates its first annual meeting since forming Strategic Alliance with Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization

by Victoria Shea

Sponsored by Third Federal Savings and Loan, Cudell Improvement once again held their Annual Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 23. It was their first since the Strategic Alliance took effect back in July 2018.

In his speech, Matt Zone, councilman for Ward 15, acknowledged that it has been a “pleasure and an honor” serving the Cudell neighborhood, addressing the neighborhood’s “proud history and amazing leaders.”

“There are some really exciting things happening in our neighborhood,” Zone said, before he spoke about the opening of the new Dog Kennel at W. 93 and Detroit. Starting at a cost of 4.9 million dollars, Zone announced that when the kennel opened on March 7, the cost would be 7.3 million dollars. He explained that while the cost was high, he told his colleagues that, “We only get to do this once, we need to do it right.”

In his keynote address, Lucky’s Market store director Bob Knaus echoed Zone’s speech about the exciting things happening in the neighborhood, citing the market’s successful year while commenting that the neighborhood has been fantastic and great.

The Edgewater community is “gorgeous and really, really impressive,” Knaus said. “Our policy is take care of community and take care of team members and the rest is good to go.”

One way of taking care of the community, Knaus said, is by being affordable while having cultural heritage foods that are fresh and made daily. In addition, Knaus said, he wants Lucky’s to help in community impact by having Lucky’s be a “gathering place and a resource for healthy foods.”

Another way Lucky’s impacts the community is by their community programs, said Knaus. The store’s Bags for Change program is an incentive for customers to bring their own reusable bags. By doing that, Knaus said customers are given a wooden dime to donate. The store’s other program is 10 percent off, where, quarterly, the store selects a day when it offers 10 percent off. The funds from the sales from that day and the Bags for Change program are donated to non-profits.

Managing Director Jenny Spencer presented a slide show presentation on the updates of what the staff has been working on since the forming of the Strategic Alliance back in July. According to Spencer, in the Cudell and Edgewater neighborhoods, the population is approximately 15,000 neighbors. The population of Detroit Shoreway, she continued, is approximately 11,000.

The neighborhoods are diverse and “we’re mindful of that too,” Spencer said. “[We’re] meeting the community where it is; meeting people where they are in their lives; and acknowledging strengths in each of the three neighborhoods.”

Code enforcement work has also been a concern of Cudell, Spencer said, explaining that they are doing enforcement via “concentrated inspection zones.” Having finished the first zone, which was from W. 83 Street to W. 93 Street, and from Madison Avenue to I-90, Spencer said that 723 properties were surveyed. Of those surveyed properties, 146 notices were sent out and 300 thank you letters were sent, thanking people who were up to code.

Spencer said that the next zone inspection would take place in March and cover the area of W. 93 Street to W. 100 Street, and from Madison Avenue to I-90.

Spencer also addressed the new

changes that Economic Development and Marketing Coordinator Jessica Trivisonno has made, including the new Cudell Improvement website (cudell.com). In addition to the website, Trivisonno has updated the bi-weekly e-newsletter which currently has 623 subscribers.

Trivisonno has also created a social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Spencer also spoke about the Edgewater Street Festival which is replacing the Clifton Arts and Music Festival, being held on Sunday, June 30.

The last topic Spencer spoke about was safety and the work Christopher Brown was doing. “What Christopher does is create a culture of responsiveness and prompt service supporting the community and their needs,” Spencer said.

Brown achieves this, she said, by the close relationship that Cudell Improvement has with Cleveland Police 1st District and its commander, Daniel Fay. In addition, Brown attends the monthly 1st District community meetings; created a crime database for the neighborhood; and works with neighborhood

continued on page 8



PHOTO BY VICTORIA SHEA

Saturday, February 23, 2019; Cudell Improvement Annual Meeting, Brennan’s Banquet Center, 13000 Triskett Road: (L-R) Norm Toms, Jeanette Toms and Walter Martens Jr. Cudell Improvement Board of Directors member Walter Martens Jr. presents the Walter and Pauline Martens Lifetime Achievement Award to Jeanette Toms of Good Earth Farm located at 9600 Madison Avenue.

Cleveland Municipal Court partners with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to help people get driving privileges back

In an effort to engage the local community on a change in Ohio law that could affect thousands of people with vehicle license suspensions, Cleveland Municipal Court has created a special hotline and website to help those trying to get their driving privileges reinstated.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Initiative went into effect January 31, creating a six-month program for driver license reinstatement fee reduction and waiver for offenders whose driver licenses have been suspended for specific violations.

It’s estimated over 400,000 Ohio drivers will qualify for the program with at least 40,000 of them in Cleveland.

The Court has a website, www.helpgetmylicenseback.com, which includes information on the program and a link to the BMV website for people to apply. Anyone with specific questions about the

program can call a special hotline, 216- 664-6145 from 9:00am to 6:00pm.

The BMV program does not reduce reinstatement fees in cases where the underlying offense is alcohol, drug or weapons-related. If a suspension is the result of a court order (for instance, driving under suspension multiple times), at least 18 months must have

passed since the suspension ended for reinstatement fees to be reduced or waived entirely. Applicants must have completed all court-ordered sanctions (fines or community service) for a case to be eligible for a reduction or complete waiver. A complete waiver is only available for those who have SNAP cards (food stamps) or can show proof that they are in the SNAP

card application process.

The initiative only applies to a driver license or permit suspension; it does not apply to a commercial driver license or commercial permit suspension.

Applications for the BMV Amnesty are available at any BMV Deputy Registrar, online at bmvo.ohio.gov or it can be mailed to those who call 614-752-7500.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, March 7, 2019; Westown Community Development Corporation Annual Meeting, Cleveland Public Library Eastman Branch, 11602 Lorain Avenue: (L-R): Cleveland City Council President Kevin Kelley, Annabel Khouri, Eric Stoffer and Ward 11 Councilwoman Dona Brady. Khouri and Stoffer received the Neighborhood Builders Award for the work to create a neighborhood farm on W. 114th Street.

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HOLY WEEK DATES:
Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm
Good Friday English - 7:00 pm
 German - 8:00 pm
Easter Sunday German - 9:00 am
 English - 10:30 am



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www.tinyurl.com/SaintBarbara

HOLY WEEK SERVICES
April 18-21, 2019

HOLY THURSDAY, 7:00 p.m. Mass
GOOD FRIDAY, 12:00 noon to 1:00, Penance (Confession)
3:00 p.m., Solemn Reading of the Passion
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross followed by Confession
HOLY SATURDAY, 1:00 p.m., Blessing of Easter Foods,
8:30 p.m., **EASTER MASS**
EASTER SUNDAY, 9:00 a.m. Mass in English
11:00 a.m. Mass in Polish



St. Colman Parish
2027 West 65th Street
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216-651-0550

Mass Schedule for Easter 2019

Communal Penance Service _____ April 10, 2019
7:00 PM Communal Penance Service

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion ____ April, 14, 2019
5:00 PM Saturday, 4/14, Blessing of Palms and Mass
9:00 AM Blessing of Palms and Mass
11:00 AM Procession of Palms and Mass

Holy Thursday _____ April 18, 2019
7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper and Washing of the Feet

Good Friday _____ April 19, 2019
12:00 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion –
Veneration of the Cross
Begins at La Sagrada Familia, continues onto
St. Colman and to St. Michael's.

Easter Vigil _____ April 20, 2019
8:00 PM Easter Vigil Readings
8:30 PM Blessing of Fire and Easter Vigil Service

Easter Sunday _____ April 21, 2019
9:00 AM Mass
11:00 AM Mass

Happy Easter! Our neighborhood churches welome you!

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Holy Thursday
7:00 p.m.
Good Friday
2:30 p.m. Polish Stations
3:00 p.m. Passion
Easter Vigil
Saturday 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday
8:00 a.m.- Traditional Polish
Mass and Procession
11:30 a.m. English
Food Blessing Saturday
11:00 a.m., 12:00 Noon & 1:00 p.m.

Westown celebrates annual meeting

Westown Community Development Corporation held its annual meeting on Thursday, March 7th at the Eastman Branch of the Cleveland Public Library at W. 116th and Lorain Avenue. Board President Patrick Clovin used a power point presentation to highlight some of the organization's activities in its service area which includes all of City Council Ward 11. Guest speaker John Hildebrandt talked about the history of Cedar Point. Ward 11 Councilwoman Dona Brady was joined by Cleveland City Council President Kevin Kelley in presenting several awards.

Accomplishments Clovin highlighted included the cleanup of 105 vacant lots, 934 hours of clean-up and grass cutting, five branding events, code enforcement efforts and graffiti removal.

Clovin also noted some development projects, planned or underway, in the service area including: a \$1.3 million investment in the Variety Village that includes a parking area for the Variety Theater and surrounding businesses; a \$10 million

investment by Weston Inc., in development of the former Midland Steel site on Madison Avenue; a \$1.2 million investment by Dollar General in a new store at 12415 Bellaire; and investment in the restoration of the Stefan Decker building at 11918 Lorain Avenue.

Clovin shared some details on the projects via the Power Point presentation:

The Variety Village area project includes a grant from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District to make the parking area more environmentally friendly. The area is to include 95 parking spaces with entrances and exits on W. 119th Street. As for the restoration of the Variety Theater, Clovin said Westown is currently working on finalizing funding for the \$15 million theater restoration project.

The Midland Steel site involves the planned development of the 22-acre site at W. 106th and Madison. When the development is complete the businesses located on the site are expected to generate 100 new jobs, generate \$1.4 million in property taxes and \$875,000 in income taxes, according to the presentation at the meeting.

The new Dollar General store will feature ceramic tiles by local artist Angelica Pozo.

Other activities in the neighborhood mentioned at the meeting included partnering with the Cuyahoga County Land Bank in the purchase and rehab of several homes in the neighborhood; reopening of the Dairy Queen at 3538 W. 105th; opening of West of Venus, a vintage home and clothing shop, at 10024 Lorain Avenue; and expansion of Cleveland Mofongo restaurant at 11621 Lorain Avenue.

Clovin noted that Westown had

St Patrick, Bridge
Easter Services

Holy Thursday - 7:30 p.m.
Good Friday — 3:00 p.m.
Holy Saturday - 7:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday - 8:30 a.m.
 & 11:00am

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Thursday, April 18: *Service of the Shadows*, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 20: *Service of Light*, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 21: *Easter Breakfast*, 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Resurrection Day Worship, 10:30 a.m.

St. Augustine Church
Holy Week Services
2486 W. 14th

Holy Thursday
6:30 p.m. signed for the Deaf
Good Friday
Liturgy of Lord's Passion
6:30 p.m. signed for the Deaf
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Service
7:30 p.m. signed for the Deaf
Easter Sunday
8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (signed) and 12:30 p.m.

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• EASTER SERVICES •

Holy Thursday - April 18:
7:30 PM - Mass of the Lord's Supper
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
after Mass until 10:00 PM
Good Friday - April 19:
12:00 Noon - Solemn Stations
of the Cross
3:00 PM - Commemoration of the
Lord's Passion with Communion
Holy Saturday - April 20:
7:30 PM - Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday - April 21:
9:00 AM and 11:30 AM Masses
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HOLY WEEK SACRED TRIDUUM

Passion Sunday 14 April
Palm Sunday
5PM Vigil; 9AM and 11AM
Solemn Blessing and
Procession with Palms
Holy Thursday 18 April
Morning Prayer 10AM
Mass of the Lord's Supper 8PM
Good Friday 19 April
Morning Prayer 10AM
Celebration of
the Lord's Passion 3PM
Holy Saturday 20 April
Morning Prayer 10AM
Blessing of Food in Church 2PM
The Easter Vigil 8PM
Service of Light
Service of the Word
Baptism
Eucharist
Easter Sunday 21 April
Renewal of Baptismal Promises
9AM and 11AM Mass

OHIO CITY INCORPORATED ANNUAL MEETING

continued from page one

housing options continue to boom and impact the neighborhood with construction planned along West 25th Street, Lorain Avenue, and West 29th and Church Streets, that when combined will add more than 411 new apartments and 95,000 square-feet of retail space. Add another 277 new apartments and renovated condominiums and 40,000 square-feet of retail space with the recently completed The Quarter Luxury Apartments on West 25th Street and Detroit Avenue, and The West 25th Street Lofts, real estate developers are recasting the city neighborhood as a regeneration hot spot. New apartments equipped with all the bells and whistles hope to win over renters with exclusive amenities like temperature-controlled underground parking, a luxury hotel-style pool, a full-service gym and an indoor dog washing station.

Whether an influx of new residents will change the personality of the distinctive neighborhood is yet to be seen but conversations among city officials and real estate developers tends to be tight lipped when it comes to discussing new construction and its impact on the neighborhood. Real estate development is a private enterprise on a very public stage. Factors that determine the ultimate profits – costs, design, and marketability – are rarely made public. By the time local residents find out about a project, the basic decisions have already been made.

Block Clubs and community meetings get plenty of media attention but rarely change the outcome. Zoning offers opportunities for intervention, but Cleveland City Council tends to leave residents out of the most important part of the process. Affordable, workforce housing is almost never discussed with real estate developers, according to a source close to the city planning process. Changing zoning codes might offer community leaders a chance to impact the real estate development more effectively than organizing protests.

Regardless, plenty of people are doing great things to improve the quality of life in the Ohio City neighborhood.

Councilman Matt Zone expressed his appreciation to residents for making the neighborhood inclusive

and expanding opportunities to live and work there. He introduced OCI Board President Christopher Schmitt, who in turn, thanked citizen leaders, block clubs, and other service organizations for their commitment and efforts. Following a short video meant to tell stories about how great Ohio City is for a place to live, Executive Director Thomas S. McNair took the stage a midst a round of applause from the audience. He proceeded to unveil the OCI 2018 Annual Report by providing a ten-year overview of the organization, rather than a single year snapshot, emphasizing the role of placemaking in their approach to business development. For example, leveraging the West Side Market for more business development strategies and purchasing real estate to preserve assets in the community. Placemaking was used to assist homeowners in more than 100 renovations of historic homes over a ten-year period; to create over 500 new units of housing mostly on vacant land; to re image the streets as a place to celebrate; and to work with artists to turn forgotten sites into places people care about.

Quality of life and green space in the neighborhoods was also cited as a placemaking strategy and development of a water park connected to public housing, the first of its kind in the nation, to “leverage equity to improve quality of life,” according to McNair.

“When it comes to telling our story as an organization, we talk about how we have grown by hiring a marketing specialists and other support staff, and what we’ve done for the neighborhood, and listening to others tell us their stories. That’s how we learn and grow as an organization,” said McNair. “Everyone in this room has been part of our success.”

“Placemaking” is a term used across urban development to describe a community-driven process for designing public spaces with a variety of activities for diverse audiences, first developed in the 1960’s by urbanist and author Jane Jacobs and urban planner William H. Whyte. It is often used, nowadays, by real estate developers and urban planners as a tool to gain a foothold on public support for projects. With a set of financial rewards of its own,



PHOTO BY KATHRYN DIKE

Tuesday, March 19, 2019, Ohio City Inc. Annual Meeting, Urban Community School Community Center, 4909 Lorain Avenue: (L-R) Thomas S. McNair, Executive Director; Antonia Marinucci, Homeowner; Christopher Schmitt, Board President; and Donna Bailey, Near West Enterprise Housing Fellow. Homeowner Antonia Marinucci receives a Historic Preservation Award for restoring his property at 4019 Bridge Avenue.

placemaking rarely makes a real place more than it already is, some critics of the multi-faceted approach argue. Teasing out the particulars of a place by understanding and appreciating its history, uniqueness, topography, and underlying eloquence often creates conflicting results between clients and citizens.

Creative placemaking may offer an alternative to traditional placemaking strategies. According to a Kresge Foundation report released in 2018, creative placemaking “incorporates traditional arts-related efforts like murals, music, sculpture and dance, but it can also refer to place-based efforts that promote entrepreneurship, use space in novel ways, and creatively engage government and law enforcement, the private sector, community organizations and residents.”

Giving local people a voice and stake in decision-making is central to any placemaking efforts, the report confirmed, by turning cultural and economic boundaries of a neighborhood into shared borders.

In Cleveland’s Collingwood neighborhood, Northeast Shores together with a Community Partnership for Arts and Culture, or CPAC, deliberately integrated arts and culture into comprehensive community development to help “reverse local population decline, rebuild a central commercial corridor around arts businesses, and restore a positive identity to the neighborhood,” according to the Kresge Foundation. Key partnerships among arts and culture organizations have made Collingwood a showcase neighborhood for creative placemaking.

Whether a swath of new luxury apartments with temperature-controlled underground parking garages and luxury hotel-style pool qualifies as creative placemaking is debatable. What’s clear, however, is that placemaking can bring about the hyper-gentrification and the loss of longstanding communities like Ohio City. But McNair acknowledges there’s still work to do.

“Our work in not done,” McNair added. “This is not something that

you finish. We have things that we’ll continue to work on and evolve, much as it has in the past. I don’t think there’s any doubt that we’re starting a new chapter.”

The program was followed by the Ohio City Inc. Annual Awards Ceremony, to honor individuals for demonstrating excellence in the community in the following categories: RESIDENT LEADER – Issac Robb; HOSPITALITY LEADER – St. John’s Episcopal Church; COMMUNITY SAFETY – Sgt. Timothy Maffo-Judd; COMMUNITY SERVICE – The Metanoia Project; OUTSTANDING SMALL BUSINESS – The Flying Fig; HISTORIC PRESERVATION – 4019 Bridge Avenue; NEW CONSTRUCTION – West 25th & Detroit; ARTS & CULTURE – Nikki Delamotte; PRESIDENTIAL – Tom Gill; and LEGACY – May Dugan Center

For more information on the Ohio City Incorporated 2018 Report and Community Awards link to www.ohiocity.org.

Jan Resseger’s blog analyzes legislative and policy developments concerning education

For those interested in working on improving public education in Ohio, Jan Resseger’s blog at janresseger.wordpress.com is a valuable resource. Resseger is a retired staff member of the United Church of Christ where she once in charge of advocacy and programming in support of public education justice. She also served as chair of the National Council of Churches Committee on Public Education.

BLOG REVIEW

In a March 26th posting on her blog, titled *Long Awaited Bipartisan School Funding Plan Proposed for Ohio*, Resseger offers a preliminary review of the Fair School Funding Plan proposed for Ohio Schools by State Representatives Robert Cupp (R-Lima) and John Patterson (D-Jefferson). The plan’s authors hope their proposal will finally meet the demands of the Ohio Supreme Court in the DeRolph decision and make school funding constitutional in Ohio.

In her blog, Resseger quotes from Cupp and Patterson saying: “The new plan challenges the state to: ‘base state school funding on what students actually need to succeed in a rapidly changing world; access every community’s capacity to pay its fair share – transparently; and treat all Ohio’s school districts and taxpayers as fairly as possible.’”

Resseger goes further her preliminary review of the yet to be released plan saying “The new plan’s designers explain that the plan will combine state and local dollars according to a formula that will cover actual costs, provide freedom to districts

to use state funds for local needs they determine, and ensure that every district has enough money for quality classroom instruction, co-curriculars, social-emotional needs, counselors, technology, safety, and professional develop-

ment for teachers. The plan includes enriched pre-kindergarten for all four-year-olds living in poverty, and it funds special education at 100 percent, instead of the current 90 percent level.”

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, March 16, 2019; Ukrainian Museum-Archives, 1202 Kenilworth Avenue, Ukrainian Easter Egg “Pysanky” making workshop: An egg emerges from the dye bath



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PHOTO BY VICTORIA SHEA
Saturday, February 23, 2019; Cudell Improvement Annual Meeting, Brennan’s Banquet Center, 13000 Triskett Road: First District Commander Daniel Fay, recipient of the Good Government Award, shares some thoughts with those in attendance.

CUDELL IMPROVEMENT

continued from page 5
engagement officers. He also helps with resident-led cleanups as well as Court Community Service cleanups. Lastly, Spencer focused on Brown’s effort with graffiti sweeps. “Since July, Christopher reported 53 incidents of graffiti,” Spencer said. “19 of which have been handled already.” Starting the award’s presenta-

tion, Councilman Zone presented a Service Award to the West Edge Community Group for their Autumn Street Festival. “This is what builds community,” Zone said of the event. Zone also awarded a Service Award to Willie Lawson for his work at Cudell recreation center. Accepting the Excellence in Government Award was 1st District Commander Daniel Fay. Fay said he was accepting the award “on behalf of the men and women of 1st District. For me, it’s not about me; it’s about the officers.” Presenting the Walter and Pauline Martens Lifetime Achievement Award, Wally Martens acknowledged Jeanette Toms, a former employee of Cudell Improvement and the owner of Good Earth Farm. Martens said “Cudell Improvement Inc. thanks you for your dedication and your career of service to the people of Cudell.” His last Annual Meeting serving as President for Cudell Improvement, Dan Berry announced the results of the election. Board members Charles Slone and Jerry Schmeltzer will remain on the board with Slone serving as Board President. Jeff Blazek was newly elected as a board member.

Cudell Improvement bylaws changes create new service area and membership qualifications

by Chuck Hoven

Members of Cudell Improvement called for a Special Members Meeting on Thursday, February 21st, just days before the Cudell Improvement Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 23rd. At the Special Members Meeting, held at the Cannon, LoPresti and Catavolos Funeral at 11210 Detroit Avenue, members were asked to vote on three changes in the organization’s bylaws – all three issues proposed passed. The first issue proposed involved changing the membership requirements “to eliminate membership of individuals who provide a service or conduct business in the service area.” The issue also allowed membership for property owners in the service area and called for a change in the service area boundaries. The old bylaws allowed membership for “individuals, families, non-profit organizations and businesses who reside or are employed in the Service Area or conduct business or provide a service in the service area and are in good standing.” The old bylaws defined the Service Area boundaries as “W. 117th on the west, West 83rd on the east, Lorain Avenue on the south and Lake Erie on the north.” The change in the bylaws, which passed with a vote of 41-2, reads as follows: “The members of Cudell Improvement, Inc. shall be individuals, families, non-profit organizations, and businesses who reside, are employed, or own property in the Service Area and who are in good standing. The Service Area is the portions of the Cudell and Edgewater neighborhoods in Cleveland, Ohio highlighted on the map attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A.” The map, passed out at the meeting as Exhibit A, shows the Edgewater and Cudell neighborhood statistical planning areas outlined as defined by the City of Cleveland Planning Department. However, the map used was a Ward map that shows the Ward 11 part of the Map in white and the remainder of the area in grey. Cudell Improvement Board Secretary Jonathan Steiner explained that the intention of Issue

1 was to serve the entire Cudell and Edgewater Statistical Planning Areas. He stressed that the area in Ward 11 which is part of Dona Brady’s Ward and is serviced by Westown is intended to be included in the newly defined Cudell Improvement service area. The new Cudell Improvement service area includes the area north of I-90 from W. 85th to W. 117th. The new area does not include Cudell Improvement’s office on Lorain Avenue, or property Cudell Improvement owns south of I-90. The new boundaries and membership requirements effectively eliminate the area south of I-90 once serviced by Cudell Improvement. Also, businesses that are outside the service area boundaries, but offered services in the service area, such as Martens Funeral Home staff were eliminated from membership. Martens Funeral Home director Wally Martens, has been a member of Cudell Improvement for many years, serves on its Board of Trustees and sponsored the Walter and Pauline Martens Lifetime Achievement Award given each year at the organization’s annual meeting. It was not clear whether or not members of the Board of Directors, whom had their membership qualifications terminated by the new rules, would be allowed to serve out their terms. The second issue adds a new

provision for removing a member of the Board of Directors of Cudell Improvement. The new provision allows for “removal of a Director who creates an unhealthy or dysfunctional boardroom through inappropriate behavior or by disrespecting the Directors, members or partners of Cudell Improvement.” This measure passed with a 37-4 vote. The third issue proposed by the membership changed the qualifications of candidates for the Board of Directors “to prohibit candidacy of individuals who were employed by Cudell Improvement, Inc. within the past five years.” The issue passed by a vote of 34-7. Cudell Improvement Board President Dan Berry said that in his many years of involvement with Cudell Improvement, “I can’t remember ever having members call for a meeting.” He added that he thought it was good that members were “engaged.” One Cudell Improvement member attributed organizing the meeting and the issues to the new Cudell Improvement website. He said the website is easy to navigate and members can read the board minutes online. He said members engaged in online discussion as a result of their online viewing of board minutes and of Cudell Improvement’s website.

WESTOWN ANNUAL MEETING

continued from page 6

leveraged a \$5,000 grant from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture to raise a total of \$25,000 that helped to present a number of Westown Arts and Cultural programs including Summer Concerts, Cleveland Opera Theatre, Westown Winter Frolic, Library Appreciation Day and Cudell Commons Holiday Tree Dedication. Councilwoman Dona Brady and Council President Kevin Kelley presented an award to Architect Daryl Mapson for donating design work to the efforts to restore Brookfield Park. Brady said that Mapson’s donation of his design services made the project affordable. She said she has allocated Parks and Recreation funds amounting to \$75,000 per year for the past two years to the restoration of the park on W. 125th South of I-71. Park improvements in-

clude a new pavilion. Brady said the project is expected to be completed in 2019. Councilwoman Brady and Council President Kelley presented Annabel Khouri and Eric Stoffer of Bay Branch Farm the 2019 Neighborhood Builders Award for their sustainable urban farm at 3612 W. 114th Street. Other awards on display at the meeting included the Lorain Station Holiday Winow Display awards with Therese Tahsler of Izzo’s Café at 10042 Lorain Avenue taking first place; Barb and Mike Radocaj of West of Venus at 10024 Lorain taking second place; and Judy Schindler of Schindler’s Fabrics at 9933 Lorain taking third place. Also, twenty residents from homes throughout the service area were honored with Bright and Beautiful Home Awards.

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Near West Side’s couple’s love spans across seven decades

In memory

April 19, 1946 – January 8, 2019

Judith Ann Peterson Horvath—”Queen of the Boxing Kitchen”

The story of Judith Ann Peterson Horvath and Gary Horvath spans seven decades. It is a love story, the story of a family, a story of community, a story about boxing in Cleveland, and a story of the Near West Side neighborhoods of Cleveland and how they have changed over the years. Through a succession of boxing gyms over the years the couple provided a safe after school space for neighborhood children to do their homework, have something to eat, and learn to box. Gary Horvath estimates that over the years about 2,000 children participated in activities at one of their boxing gyms.

Judith Horvath, age 72, loving wife of Gary Horvath and mother of five children passed away in January of this year. The couple raised their five children on the Near West Side of Cleveland, three girls and two boys – Tatia, Gary, Therese, Dominique and Christopher. Judith and Gary Horvath were blessed with 23 grandchildren. Their home, on W. 26th between Chatham and Monroe, was the central headquarters for family gatherings.

Gary Horvath recalls meeting Judith Ann Peterson in the late 1950s when they were both in the seventh grade. He said it was at a Friday night dance at William Dean Howells Junior High School. Gary says he lived near Woodbine and Fulton and attended William Dean Howells (now Garrett Morgan School of Science). He said a mutual friend, Sandy, invited Judith Ann to the dance and introduced them. Judith Ann attended Thomas Jefferson Junior High School on W. 46th near Clark Avenue and lived on Newark Avenue off of Fulton, south of Clark. Their mutual friend Sandy had relatives that lived down that way, Gary said.

Their meeting as seventh graders at a junior high dance was the beginning of a lifelong romance. Gary says in Junior High they would go to the school dances, or the movies at one of the many theaters in the neighborhood. In the late 1950s, during their tenure in Junior High, the neighborhood theaters were: The Lyceum Theater at 3545 Fulton near Judith’s house, where the Fulton Branch Library is today; the Garden Theater at W. 25th and Clark where the bank parking lot is today; the Rialto Theater where Mitchell’s Ice Cream is today at 1879 W. 25th; the Little Lorain Theater at W. 45th and Lorain; and the Madison Theater at W. 95th and Madison.

Both Judith and Gary went to West Tech High School on W. 93rd between Lorain Avenue and Madison Avenue. Gary recalls that every day, no matter what the weather, both he and Judith would take their packed lunches and walk down to W.89th and Madison to sit on the wall in the Lawson’s parking lot to eat their lunches. When other students started to follow them to the Lawson’s, they would cross the street to sit by the A & P grocery to each their lunch.

Gary said Judith was an A+ student. In the mornings, Judith and Gary would meet at W. 25th and Lorain and take the bus together down Lorain Avenue on their way to school. In the evening, they would ride the bus to W. 25th and Lorain. Judith would take another bus south on W. 25th to her home and Gary would walk to Jack Keough’s Old Angle Boxing Gym by St. Malachi Church.

Gary says Judith would help him with his homework on the bus. He remembers a teacher realizing that he did not do the trigonometry homework by himself, saying to him “Whoever helped you is very smart.” Gary said the teacher ended up giving him a passing grade in the class.

On weekends Judy worked at her family’s Peterson’s Poultry stand at the West Side Market. Gary worked at Pinzone’s stand. Gary said they were generally too busy to see each other at the West Side Market.

Judith graduated from West Tech in June of 1964; Gary graduated a semester later in January of 1965. Soon after graduation the young teenage couple married at St. Patrick’s on Bridge Avenue in April of 1965. Gary said his childhood parish, St. Mary’s, had closed by that time and the records had been transferred to St. Patrick’s.

In their early years after getting married, Judith worked in various

When owner John Keough passed away, Gary went into partnership with his boxing mentor, Jimmy Bivins, to take over the Old Angle Gym on West Superior Avenue by St. Malachi’s. Gary said Keough’s son Jackie gave the gym and its equipment to him and Bivins.

Gary ran the gym with Bivins until 1975 when it closed and was slated for demolition. He said, then Councilwoman Mary Rose Oakar told him about a space at the West Side Community House on W. 30th and Bridge. He said he was able to clean out an arts and crafts room in the basement to set up some boxing bags and a speed rack. The boxers sparred in the West Side Community House gym. Bivins chose to stay in the neighborhood by St. Malachi where Fr. Hritz at St. Malachi offered him space in the School Gym. Gary said the kids from his gym at the West Side Community House would often go to St. Malachi and spar with Bivins’ kids.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HORVATH FAMILY
Judith Ann Peterson Horvath and Gary Horvath wedding photo. The couple were married in 1965 at St. Patrick’s Church on Bridge Avenue.

law firms doing secretarial work. Gary had a seasonal day job working at the docks and continued to box.

In 1962, at age 16, Gary won his first Golden Gloves Championship in a bantam weight bout at Navy Park Gym on Ridge Road, just south of Denison. He said that boxing had moved from the old Cleveland Arena to Navy Park by the time he started fighting in 1961. Gary said “Navy Park was the fight place” until the late 1980s.

After his first Golden Gloves Championship, the Old Angle Gym owner John Keough introduced him to boxer Jimmy Bivins, a boxing champion who held the National Boxing Association light heavy-weight and heavyweight duration titles during World War II. Bivins, who worked at Laub’s Bakery on Lorain Avenue, would work out at the Old Angle Gym after work. Bivins began to train the young Gary Horvath who went on to win six more Golden Gloves Championships.

Gary recalls that while no wives or girlfriends were allowed in the locker room at Navy Park, Judith managed to get in to see him. He said she worked as a secretary to Cleveland Commissioner of Recreation John Nagy and knew the door guards who allowed her to pass through.

After four years at West Side Community House, Gary moved his boxing program to Zone Recreation Center where the program flourished from 1980 to 1986. From 1986 into the early 1990s, the boxing program moved to Cudell Recreation Center. Other locations over the years included a gym in a basement off Scranton, and another partnership with Jimmy Bivins in a gym at E. 55th and Lexington.

In 2012, Gary opened the “Make them Pay” Old Angle Boxing Gym on W. 25th. Gary says keeping the gym free to children is important to him because he remembers how hard it was to come up with a \$3 fee when he first walked into a boxing gym at age 12. Today, the “Make Them Pay” Old Angle Boxing Gym continues to be free to children ages 8-17. Gym rules require that children must do their homework before they can work-out.

Gary, a seven-time Golden Gloves Boxing Champion, ran boxing gyms and boxing programs in different locations throughout the city for many years. Judith was supportive of this endeavor. Judith, who knew shorthand and worked as a secretary in various legal and government offices over the years, took notes on the fights and knew the names and stats of boxers. She would help



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HORVATH FAMILY
Gary Horvath, a seven-time Golden Gloves Champion bantam weight boxer during the 1960s.

prepare fight bills in English, Arabic and Spanish. Gary refers to Judith as “the Queen of the fight kitchen.” He says Judith prepared food for over 200 fight events starting with an amateur show in 1973 at the Carroll Gym at St. Ignatius High School.

Tatia, the eldest of the five Horvath children, says sometimes she and her mother were “in the kitchen for days” preparing food for an upcoming fight show. Tatia says they made homemade meatballs for spaghetti dinners. During the fights they boiled all beef hotdogs on site, and pan seared them before serving them to guests. Tatia said the crowds usually ranged from 350 to 400 people. She recalls working with her siblings to set up tables and chairs for the anticipated crowd at places like St. Michael’s Gruss Hall. Gary recalls Judith’s Italian beef sandwiches and salads, and that people would remark about the fight shows they hosted saying they had “never seen such a big selection of food for a fight show anywhere.”

In 2012, Gary and Judith found an old warehouse at 3212 W. 25th Street. They received a discounted rent for clearing out 165,000 pounds of junk from the building. Gary decided to add the “Make them Pay” slogan to the name of Old Angle Boxing Gym when Attorney Tim Misny gave him a donation. Judith helped Gary negotiate a huge discount on a boxing ring with a salesman impressed with their reputation for charity work in the neighborhood.

Gary says Judith used to work with the kids at the gym. Tatia recalls her mother’s kindness to

children. She remembers a young child, with two younger siblings in tow, getting hot dogs for all three of them and holding up his only dollar, asking how much it would cost. Tatia said he mother talked to the child saying, “you want all that stuff for one dollar?” Then after building up the child and making him feel like he got something for the dollar, Tatia said her mother gave the dollar back to the child and told him to bring it again next time he came to the gym to use it to get more food.

For the first 15 years of their marriage, Gary and Judith didn’t have kids of their own. Gary said they devoted time to the kids at the boxing gyms. The couple then had five children within six years between 1981 and 1986. Tatia says in addition to their own children, her parents also nurtured many neighborhood youth, including one child whose mother died.

In addition to the boxing gyms, Judith and Gary ran a number of restaurants in the neighborhood. From 1979 to 1984, the couple ran Gary’s Hungarian Restaurant on W. 26th and Lorain Avenue. Gary said Judith, of Swedish and German descent, learned to cook the Hungarian gypsy food of his family. The restaurant also specialized in homemade Italian beef sandwiches.

In the 1990s, the couple had a restaurant on W. 25th near Bridge Avenue and later were selected to participate in a food court inside the old Fries and Schuele Building where they sold crepe suzettes and stuffed cabbage.

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Red Line Greenway threatened by shortsighted RTA development plans

by Lennie Stover

A rare and vital urban forest on Cleveland's near west side could soon give way to chainsaws if the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) approves plans being draw up by a Westlake developer to build a project between Columbus Road and the Red Line Greenway. The beautiful forest includes a wetland with native plants that attract butterflies, deer, turkey and other wildlife. It also has four historic steel railroad towers dating from the early 1920s that were part of the New York Central and the Nickel Plate Railroads. The site is part of the Red Line Greenway (RLG), a \$7 million multi-purpose greenway that Cleveland Metroparks will begin constructing this summer. Construction of the greenway must be completed by December 2020 to comply with the terms of Federal grants obtained to build it. Development of the site will not only destroy irreplaceable public green space but also squeeze the greenway into a highly undesirable "cattle shoot" design only 12' wide. A verdant green valley will be turned into a cement alley.

COMMENTARY

The Red Line Greenway, when completed, will connect Zone Recreation Center at W. 65th and Lorain to the Cleveland Foundation Centennial Lake Link Trail near Columbus Road and Franklin Avenue. The Cleveland Foundation Centennial Trail then links to the Towpath Trail.

A March 26th *Plain Dealer* article titled *RTA approves Carnegie Management to make plans for a mixed use complex near Red Line Greenway Trail*, by the Plain Dealer reporter Grant Segall, says, "The Regional Transit Authority approved a non-binding letter of intent today for a Westlake developer to draft a plan for offices, residences, stores and green space on 1.3 acres of RTA property between Columbus Road and the Future Red Line Greenway Trail." According to the article, "The letter gives Carnegie Management and Development nine months to work with city officials, neighbor,

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community groups and others on the plan for the steep, mostly wooded site. If RTA's board approves the plan, construction would begin by October 15, 2020."

This important site, and an additional two miles of Red Line trackside, have been groomed by volunteers for the past 42 years. It was volunteers, wanting to perpetuate the care of the site, who in 2009 founded the idea of converting the entire trackside into a public green space with a multi-use trail.

The trail will reconnect eight economically and racially diverse neighborhoods that have been separated by highways and train tracks for decades. The Red Line Greenway will be the only greenway that connects directly to downtown Cleveland and it will do so safely by being at grade and off road.

The trail will reconnect eight economically and racially diverse neighborhoods that have been separated by highways and train tracks for decades. The Red Line Greenway will be the only greenway that connects directly to downtown Cleveland and it will do so safely by being at grade and off road. It was volunteers who lobbied RTA for five years to convince them that this greenway could be built safely and was in their best interest. It was volunteers who brought Metroparks in as a partner in 2014. Finally, it was the work of volunteers clearing the trackside that reduced the cost to build the Red Line Greenway by over \$2 million. This was the deciding factor in Metroparks landing an \$8 million Federal TIGER grant in 2016, \$4 million of which went to the Red Line Greenway.

RTA's commitment to the Red Line Greenway partnership was to "ensure the maximum width and integrity" of the greenway and to providing Metroparks with an easement to the property. But on August 27, 2017, after Metroparks had retained designers for the project but before an easement had been granted, RTA executives quietly issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop a

key section the property along Columbus Road from Abby Avenue to West 25th Street. The deadline for response was October 11th. At least three proposals were received and those developers were added to a short list for further evaluation that was to begin on Monday, November 12th. But word leaked on November 8th that the eventual "winner" of the Request for Proposals had already been chosen before RTA's evaluation meetings had even begun. This troubling development was relayed in an email to an RTA board member on Sunday November 11th. The predetermined winner was confirmed by the same source on December 18th when the Chief Executive Officer of the development firm was seen on a tour of the potential development site with RTA executives.

In the Request for Proposals, a Transportation Oriented Development (TOD) study conducted in 2013 through Tremont West Community Development Corporation is cited to justify developing the site. The same study was used by the Cleveland Planning Commission to change the zoning in the area. The Planning Commission has not taken a public position on the proposed development. Red Line Greenway volunteers participated in the planning meetings and objected to the development of Red Line Greenway property in writing in January 2014. This study is now six years old and outdated. In addition, extensive development has taken place since it was drafted with thousands of new homes and apartments being built and many more under construction. This includes two ten-story towers that will be visible from RTA's site and across the street from the West Side Market that will be under construction soon. In 2013, when the study was conducted the Red Line Greenway was only an idea. Today it is a reality with funding and a construction start date. These three factors; an outdated study whose outcome was contested, massive ongoing development and the funding of the greenway, make the Transportation Oriented Development study RTA relies on obsolete and irrelevant.

Follow the money. This is the phrase most often associated with

any development of public land. RTA assures us this potential development is not about the money (despite a post on their web site inferring any money coming from it would be given to transit passengers). Their primary goal, they've said, is to increase ridership on public transportation. The tremendous new development that has and is taking place in this area will surely do that on its own.

In fact, RTA will add even more riders by leaving the green space as part of the Red Line Greenway were it will serve as event space. Art, food, dance and music festivals are just a few of the many different events that can be held on a linear park. A 12 foot wide paved trail cannot host events or social gathering spaces of any kind. How many new residents can this property hold that it would make a difference in ridership?

A well designed greenway with connections to major attractions, like the Red Line Greenway, can draw as many as 2 million or more visitors a year. RTA will reap a far greater return adhering to the original plan for the greenway as part of a multi-model transportation infrastructure that reflects the known benefits of a world-class greenway paired with existing transit infrastructure.

It should also be noted that despite the known financial woes of RTA, most of which are no fault of their own, they recently passed a 2019 budget that calls for no further service or personnel cuts. Any revenue derived from leasing this property would be immaterial to their overall operations and would not make a dent in the long-term revenue stream they need to remain a viable and effective public transit system for our region.

There are many valid and significant reasons not to develop this property. We have identified many of these reasons in a list provided to the RTA board but there are far too many to expound upon here. They cover a broad range of categories including protecting the environment, equality and equal access for all including children in underserved neighborhoods such as Clark-Fulton and Stockyards, promoting healthy lifestyles and social

interaction, encouraging economic development on private land, safety, alternative transportation through connectivity and outdoor education opportunities, among others.

Perhaps more important than a recital of the many benefits of green space and linear parks are the opinions expressed by local leaders and community advocates who have taken the time and care to write to RTA's board and to their City Councilman Kerry McCormack, who himself has drafted an excellent letter to the Mayor's office about the importance of our urban tree canopy. People such as Fred Bidwell, whose wildly successful FRONT Triennial Contemporary Art festival drew over 227,000 people to the City; Sam McNulty, brewery and restaurant founder; Ciara Ahern, developer and business person; Norm Polanski Jr. of Hoopples River Street Café; and Jay Demegall of Forest City Brewery, have each written detailed and heartfelt letters. These people have lived, worked, invested and employed hundreds in this neighborhood for years, if not decades. They, and the many others who have written RTA, value the green space more than they do a handful of new residents.

Keeping our greenway green is not only the right decision, it's the only decision. There are over 20,000 young people under the age of 19 in these neighborhoods and 52% of them live in poverty. They do not have a voice in this decision, but we are advocating for them and the thousands of volunteers who donated their time and treasure thinking the greenway was a fair and equitable way to benefit everyone in our community. RTA, we convinced you the greenway was in your best interest. Now we ask you to see that keeping it green is also in your best interest as well as those whom you serve.

This is a once-in-a-century opportunity to preserve public green space for centuries to come that will benefit everyone in Northeast Ohio.

Editor's Note: Lennie Stover is a member of Keep our Greenway Green and a founder and advocate for the Redline Greenway.

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I have half a mind...

by Teresa Clark

While I was living in Akron, I came to know a young man, who was a ‘recovering meth addict’. This young man was in a loving relationship with a ‘recovering heroin addict’ and though both of them are in recovery, they got pregnant and gave birth to the most beautiful child. But soon the heroin dealer showed back up and the young mother relapsed, left the home and the baby behind with the recovering young father. The last thing this young father told me was, “I have half a mind to turn him (the heroin dealer) in.” That single statement left me speechless and without response. That statement was so profound to me that for the last two months since he said that to me, I’ve been walking around singing a perpetual, “Hmm...”

COMMENTARY

All the scenarios of this fentanyl, heroin, meth and crack epidemic our society is suffering from blew through my mind. Both men and women selling their bodies and sometimes even their own children for drugs. Twenty-somethings losing all their teeth and turning into broken down 60-year-olds overnight while digging holes into their own faces. Mothers and fathers lying dead in their cars from overdoses while their children sit behind them strapped into cars seats. However, all those are just symptoms and aftermath, they are not the reason why grown men and women quietly step aside while their families are destroyed.

For three years I ran a community garden connected to a church in the

Middlebury area of Akron. Middlebury is overrun with drugs, prostitution, and gang-related murders. The church, like most churches, did their best to keep the community fed and clothed. Because I was always outside in the gardens working, I witnessed first-hand the dysfunction in the community. Many of the prostitutes, who were drug addicts, would come and sit in the gardens, sometimes just to take a break, and on more than one occasion would come to me fearing for their lives.

One female, in particular, we’ll call her C, was always in very bad shape. There were days when she would come into the gardens suffering from heroin withdrawal, beat up, filthy, with her clothes literally falling off of her from sexual attacks. I would give her rags and soap and let her use the garden hose to bathe. I would then take garden twine and try to fix her clothes the best I could. However, C did eventually go into rehab. When C finally got sober and was released, she came back to the church and started working with me in the gardens and helping me prepare for the community meals at the church. One day while she was helping me do the last of the prep before we opened the doors to the public, a well-known pimp and drug dealer somehow got through the doors of the church and made his way straight to C. He leaned down and whispered something into C’s ear and she, in turn, told me she was stepping outside for a cigarette. Well, I’m not an idiot, but I couldn’t stop her, and trying to be a nonjudgmental, pacifist, Christian,



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, March 16, 2019; City of Cleveland Kennel, 9203 Detroit Avenue: The new City of Cleveland Kennel opened in early March. The city listed the cost of the new kennel at \$7.3 million.

I watched them walk out the door together and tried to keep my hope alive. Eventually, I also went outside and found the two of them back in the gardens. C had the crack pipe in her mouth and the drug dealer was very kindly lighting it for her.

Well, losing C enraged me and the pacifist Christian went right out the window. I waged battle against all the drug dealers and pimps who hung outside the church and around the community gardens just waiting to pick off any broken soul who attempted to come into the gardens or the church for help. And when I say

battle, I mean “I” and nobody else was willing to physically fight against these men and some females. The females, who were slaves to their drug dealers were instructed to, “take me down,” and on more than one occasion a drug dealer threatened to put a bullet through my head. I kept a machete by my side and as a Christian, I am not ashamed to say this, I would have used that machete it in a New York minute.

So, let’s talk about the drug dealers I have mentioned. The pure audacity not to mention the

energy these drug dealers put into just getting to “recovering addicts,” specifically to re-addict them deems them, predators. These are not red-blooded Americans practicing, “capitalism” or getting back at the man. Nor were they getting their share of the American pie any way they could because they grew up on the streets, their ancestors were slaves, their people were oppressed, yada, yada, yada.... Drug dealers are predators, plain and simple, no less than Ted Bundy, Jerry Sandusky or pedophile priests.

COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

FESTIVAL

DYNGUS DAY FESTIVAL: Dyngus Day Cleveland celebration will take place on Monday, April 22nd from 10am – 9:30pm. The festival will take place on Detroit from W. 57th to W. 59th in the Gordon Square Arts District. . For more information visit www.clevelanddyngus.com

GRANTS

NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS AND IOBY have teamed up to launch the Racial Justice Matching Fund to support grassroots projects focused on racial equity. Matching dollars are still available. For more information visit www.NeighborUpCLE.org/ioby

HEALTH

NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY PRACTICE PHARMACY RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATION at Dave’s Mercado, 3565 Ridge Road on Wednesday, April 3rd at 5 p.m. Celebration and tour. For more information call 216-281-0872 ext. 291.

OHIO SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION PROGRAM (OSHIIP) will hold a meeting for Ohioans soon to be eligible for Medicare about their health insurance and prescription drug coverage options on April 25th at 6 p.m. at The Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, 11890 Fairhill Road. Free help with understanding Medicare and the options available to you. OSHIIP will also host “Welcome to Medicare public webinars at www.insurance.ohio.gov. Ohioans who have Medicare enrollment questions can also contact the department Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m at 1-800-866-1578 or call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE.

DISABILITY RIGHTS OHIO: Appealing Medicaid decisions can be difficult to navigate on your own. If you or a loved one needs help, [contact DRO’s intake department](mailto:contact.DRO@ntake.dept) and refer to our new resource, [Medicaid: Appeals Overview](http://www.Medicaid.Appeals.Overview).

HOMELESS RESOURCES

STREET CARD AVAILABLE ONLINE: The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless’s Street Card is now available online at: www.helpinthecl.org

MONEY MATTERS

WATER AND SEWER BILLS TOO HIGH? SEE IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A LOWER RATE. CHN HOUSING PARTNERS administers affordability programs for Cleveland Division of Water and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer System. To find out more call 574-7100.

FREE TAX PREPARATION: 6515 Detroit Avenue, computer lab. By appointment, Monday & Tuesdays from 5-8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Free tax preparation, made possible by the Cuyahoga Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition is available to individuals who make less than \$54,000 a year. Call 211 or visit refundohio.org to make an appointment.

VOLUNTEERS

CANALWAY PARTNERS is seeking volunteers to help with the April 7th Towpath Half Marathon: volunteers needed to help at the aid stations, finish line, and post party. If interested follow the link <https://towpathtrilogy.com/half/volunteer-half/> or email us at volunteer@canalwaypartners.com.

RED CROSS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP INSTALL FREE SMOKE ALARMS: From April 27 to May 12, the

Red Cross is rallying 30,000 volunteers and partners to install 100,000 free smoke alarms and help families create home fire escape plans in 100 high-risk communities nationwide. Services are free for all those in need and are being provided in Northeast Ohio. People can register now at SoundTheAlarm.org/NEO or can call 216-431-3328 to volunteer at home fire safety and smoke alarm installation events across Northeast Ohio.

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>.

RECREATION

RAILS TO TRAILS CONSERVANCY’S OPENING DAY FOR TRAILS IS SATURDAY APRIL 13TH: You are invited to a spring celebration along the Cuayhoga River on the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail and Cleveland Foundation Centennial Lake Link Trail. Meet at Merwin’s

Wharf, 1785 Merwin, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. to explore the trails on bike or on foot

YOUTH

TEEN SUICIDE: LEARN THE WARNING SIGNS AND RISK FACTORS that may contribute to youth suicide For more information and a list of the warning signs and risk factors that can elevate the possibility of suicidal ideations visit The Jason Foundation at: www.jason-foundation.com.

LA MARIPOSA: A Free Personal Empowerment Program for Adolescent Girls, ages 9-18, designed to celebrate and empower for personal excellence. Identify talents and strengths, make friends, have fun. For more information call Hispanic Youth Center at 459-1222.



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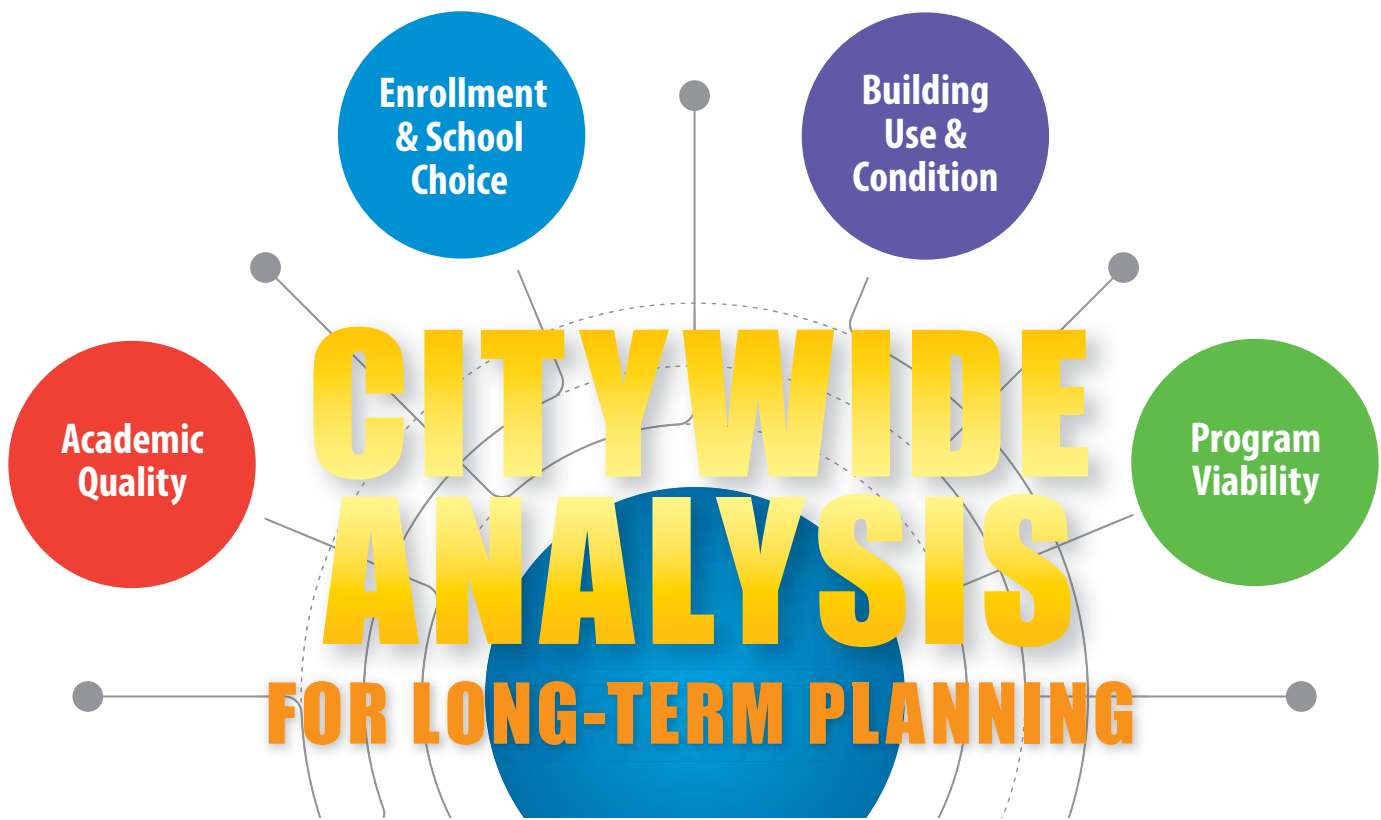


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QUALITY SCHOOLS FOR CLEVELAND'S KIDS

Help us plan your schools



Cleveland's population patterns have changed over the last five years, and the Board of Education wants to ensure that the taxpayers' investment in their school facilities matches the community's needs. The independent Bond Accountability Commission has also called for a fresh look, citing trends in enrollment and construction costs.

Join us as we kick off this long-term school planning process and explore data reflecting academic quality, school enrollment and building use and conditions across the city.

Visit QualitySchoolsforCLEkids.org and attend one of the regional planning meetings led by Cleveland Metropolitan School District CEO Eric S. Gordon.

Join us at a regional meeting near you.



EAST	Tuesday, April 2	6:00 PM	East Technical High School, 2439 E. 55th St., 44104
SOUTHEAST	Thursday, April 4	4:00 PM	Third Federal Savings, 7007 Broadway Ave., 44105
WEST	Saturday, April 6	1:30 PM	Max S. Hayes High School, 2211 W. 65th St., 44102
NORTHWEST	Saturday, April 13	1:30 PM	Collinwood Recreation Center, 16300 Lake Shore Blvd., 44110
SOUTHWEST	Wednesday, April 17	6:00 PM	New Tech West School, 11801 Worthington Ave., 44111
NEAR WEST	Thursday, April 11*	6:00 PM	Garrett Morgan High School, 4016 Woodbine Ave., 44113
	Thursday, April 18	6:00 PM	Garrett Morgan High School, 4016 Woodbine Ave., 44113

*This meeting has been added to accommodate members of our community who observe Holy Thursday.

To view the Citywide Analysis, request more information and provide feedback, visit QualitySchoolsforCLEkids.org or call 216.838.0000 to speak with an engagement team member.

