



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

May is Mental Health Awareness month. Here is a Mental Health tip: Try a new art or craft workshop and bring a friend. This is the first Ukrainian Easter Egg I made at a workshop at the Ukrainian Museum in Tremont on April 13<sup>th</sup>. I brought two friends with me, and we had a marvelous time. NOTE: Plain Press Editor Debbie Sadlon is Registered Nurse with a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Cleveland State University.

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# Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

## Lincoln Heights Block Club and Tremont West Development Corporation continue battle over voting rights clauses in the block club's bylaws

by Bruce Checefsky

A stack of *Plain Press* newspapers sat on a chair next to a table in the conference room at the Animal Protective League. The Lincoln Heights Block Club meeting was running a few minutes late. Chairperson Henry Senyak handed out

the evening's agenda along with a copy of the newspaper. From the chatter in the room, a discussion on a recent article published by this author in the March issue of *Plain Press* was about to take place. Before I explain, I wish to say explicitly that I stand by my article. There were

a few minor errors, but the story I wrote was, first and foremost, a true story. Politics is a messy business and block clubs are not immune to politics. Block clubs are a vital and necessary function of civil liberty and community action. Every community needs and deserves a public forum to express their ideas and beliefs. Every person, every voice, deserves to be heard.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

With 20 members and 9 guests in attendance, the block club meeting got underway with a discussion on safety issues by Lt. Michael Betley from the Second District. A recent rash of stolen packages off residents' porches was reported along with the sounds of rapid gun shots fired late at night. Lt. Betley assured residents that Cleveland Police will patrol the area more carefully. "Look out for each other," he reminded residents.

Sharon Harvey, President & CEO of Cleveland Animal Protective League presented an update on renovation and expansion of the animal care facility. The \$13.5 million-dollar project which included a land swap with Sustainable Community Associates for the transfer of two parcels on Wiley Avenue in exchange for a section of the land bank parcel that is adjacent to their existing property.

"The real thrust of our project is the change in animal welfare that's continued on page 4

## Cleveland Peace Action speaker David Beach calls for action to stem climate change

by Chuck Hoven

David Beach, writer, activist, former director of the Green City Blue Lake Institute, and the guest speaker at the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of Cleveland Peace Action, spoke

on the topic of climate change and political change. At the meeting held at the Market Garden Brewery on W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Beach offered an update on the Green New Deal and a history that focused on what he

called "the most existential crisis of our time" – climate change.

Beach said that thirty-one years ago, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Sci- continued on page 5



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, April 17, 2019; Edgewater Park, Joseph King of the Alliance for the Great Lakes picks up litter on the beach. The Alliance for the Great Lakes works to protect the Great Lakes, this includes organizing volunteers for beach clean-ups.

## Beating Guns Tour seeks to transform guns into garden tools

by Chuck Hoven

Responding to the biblical passage in Isaiah 2: 4 "...and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;..." the Beating Guns Tour arrived at Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ on W. 14<sup>th</sup> in the Tremont neighborhood bringing along a forge to transform guns into garden tools. The tour is the brainchild of Shane Claiborne and Michael Martin, authors of the book, *Beating Guns: Hope for People who are Weary of Violence*.

Pilgrim Congregational Church joined with a group called, God Before Guns, to bring the Beating Guns Tour to Cleveland. About 150 people came to Pilgrim Church on April 16<sup>th</sup> to listen to speakers, share stories about how gun violence has affected their family, to listen to musicians perform and to witness the transformation of guns into garden tools.

Reverend Kristine Eggert, Co-founder of God Before Guns and Pastor Kelly Burd of Pilgrim

Congregational Church welcomed the crowd. Eggert noted that God before Guns had invited people who have lived with gun violence to share their stories. She urged those in attendance to "stand on the side of life and listen to the hope and struggle of this city."

Shane Claiborne and Michael Martin of the Beating Guns Tour were introduced as being on a 35-city tour joining with social justice advocates around the country to take a stand against gun violence.

Claiborne said in his home town of Philadelphia there are memorials throughout the city to people whose lives have been lost to gun violence. He said, "A 19-year-old died in front of our house in Philadelphia, we held his hand while he laid in the street dying."

Martin held up an AK-47 chopped in half and quoted the passage from Isaiah "...they shall beat their swords into plowshares..." and noted that, in today's world, guns are the modern equivalent of swords. continued on page 6



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, April 14, 2019; Palm Sunday Pony Ride, Denison Avenue United Church of Christ, 9900 Denison Ave.: Oriol Biles, age 4, is enjoying a ride on Silver, a pony from Pony Tales Farm. Guiding Silver are Bill Warren and Lorraine Schaffner of Pony Tales Farm. Schaffner says Silver is a rescue pony, and the farm is located in Columbia Station, Ohio.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, April 16, 2019; Beating Guns Tour co-sponsored by God Before Guns and Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, Pilgrim Congregational UCC, 2592 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street: Terrance "Tank" Holden, who shared his story as a gunshot wound victim, hammers a metal piece from a melted gun just out of the forge that Mike Martin of the Beating Guns Tour holds on the anvil. They are making a small hand held plow called a mattock. The gun that was melted down was a semi-automatic weapon.

Photo Removed Upon Request

**ARTS**  
**ART HOUSE**, 3119 Denison Avenue, 17th Annual Urban Bright Exhibition; May 3rd, 4:00-5:30 Ice Cream Social 6:00-9:00pm Opening Reception. Urban Bright is Art House's award-winning arts-in-education program working in 10 schools providing amazing artistic opportunities for Cleveland students. We celebrate their achievements at Art House with an accumulating exhibition with free ice cream for the students and later, beverages and finger foods for all the school staff, partners, funders, artists and volunteers that helped make Urban Bright happen for the 2018-2019 school year.  
**STATION HOPE 2019:** Cleveland

Saturday June 22nd 2019  
 Near West Theatre & Friends Presents  
*The Comedy Slam Fest*  
 Features  
**Kathie Dice**  
 Near West Theatre  
 6702 Detroit Ave.  
 Doors open at 7, Showtime 8pm \$10  
 Tickets: Cherita (216) 450-7407  
 Sonya (216) 214-0197  
 YuShan (216) 254-5162

Public Theatre presents this celebration of hope on Saturday May 4 from 7-10 p.m. at St. John Episcopal Church 2600 Church Ave. View works of theatre, music, storytelling and dance. Free and open to all.  
**NEW AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE** presents an art and music exposition celebrating the joint creative work between individuals with disabilities and participating community members. Saturday, May 4th, from 1-3 p.m. at Negative Space, 3420 Superior Ave, 2nd Floor (1541 E. 38th) Enter off E. 38th. Wheelchair accessible.  
**CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF AUTOMATION (ISA):** Third Thursdays for filmmakers will be held May 16th, 2019 and June 20th 2019 at the Brooklyn Branch of the Cuyahoga Public Library 4480 Ridge Rd. from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Guest speaker TBA. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheISA-Cleveland/>  
**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.  
**WALKABOUTREMENT** is held every second Friday from 6 to 10



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.

pm. For more information, visit [walkaboutremont.com](http://walkaboutremont.com)  
**78th STREET STUDIOS**, 1300 W. 78th Street. Art Opening for over 50 studios and galleries every 3rd Friday of every month, 5-9 p.m. [78streetstudios.com](http://78streetstudios.com).  
**MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CLEVELAND (MOCA)** at 11400 Euclid Avenue is now offering the public free daily admission. Hours are Tuesday - Thursday from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**RIVERSWEEP:** Meet Saturday, May 11, 9 a.m. Lincoln Park. Participate in the biggest river clean-up in Ohio. Volunteers receive commemorative t-shirts, bags and gloves.  
**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](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. Visit [www.CuyahogaRecycles.org](http://www.CuyahogaRecycles.org) or call 216.443.3749 to learn how to recycle in your community and discover other recycling and disposal options.

**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](http://GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org) for food assistance. For information about Food Stamps (SNAP) applications, food pantries, free produce, and hot meals text FODD to 63566.  
**FREE FRESH PRODUCE:** Thursday, May 2, 4-6 p.m. at Horizon Education Center, 2500 W. 25th Street  
**FREE FRESH PRODUCE:** Third Thursday of each month at Cudell Recreation Center, 11 a.m. - 1p.m.

**HEALTH 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 and refer to our new resource, 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.helpintheole.org](http://www.helpintheole.org)

**MEMORIAL SERVICE:** Honoring Those Who Protected Our Freedom, the Sixth Annual Memorial Day Service will be held on Monday, May 27th beginning at 9:30 AM at Riverside Cemetery, 3607 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109. Sponsored by Walter Martens and Sons Funeral Home.

**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.

**SEMINAR END-OF-LIFE seminar series** will begin on Wednesday, June 5th and will run weekly until Wednesday, July 3rd and will be held at the Walter Martens & Sons Funeral Home, 9811 Denison Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44102. Topics to be focused on will include estate planning; advanced directives; differences in assisted living and nursing home; hospice care; financial planning; veteran benefits and prearranging funeral services. Registration is suggested and light refreshments will be provided. For more information call 216-281-7111 or visit [martensfuneralhome.com](http://martensfuneralhome.com).

**VOLUNTEERS TOWARDS EMPLOYMENT AND BLOOM BAKERY** need volunteers **continued on page 7**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lincoln Heights Block Club responds to Tremont West Development Corporation actions concerning its bylaws

**To the Editor:**  
 Official response regarding the Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC) Board Action suspending recognition of and providing support to the Lincoln Heights Block Club:

What is perplexing is that both the TWDC staff and Board cannot point to an aggrieved party that the Block Club has harmed. Baseless claims by a development group were explicitly made in written statements to the TWDC Board in 2018 stating our Inherent Property Rights clause "is a policy steeped in the history of classism and racism in America."

At no point in time since the existence of this developer's complex has anyone besides himself (Josh Rosen) raised a concern at Block Club meetings. In the past five years while these large market rate apartment buildings have come online only five attendees living in them signed in on attendance sign in sheets thru April 2019 at the monthly meetings.

Our sign in sheets had 53 different persons qualified for membership sign in from January 2018 thru April 2019. We provided equal representation to everyone -- business representatives, land owners, institutions, and all residents -- both property owners and tenants.

What is very concerning is the Lincoln Heights bylaws were amended in December 2014. Why did TWDC wait to March 2018 to create a Board Resolution clarifying a "Commitment

Corrections

In an article in the April issue of the Plain Press titled "Lincoln Heights Block Club weighs in on proposal to amend its bylaws" the following items listed below stand to be corrected.

Lincoln Heights Block Club Chair Henry Senyak did not cast a tie-breaking vote on the bylaw amendment. The motion failed due to a tie vote without Senyak casting a vote.

The motion to strike the paragraph restricting rights to real property owners was made by Josh Rosen, not Jane Knoublock as stated in the article.

A statement in the article "Lincoln Heights is the only block club in the City of Cleveland with bylaws that prohibits voting on inherent property rights by non-owners of real property" did not include the source of the statement. Writer Bruce Checelsky rechecked his notes and his notes indicated the statement was made by Josh Rosen.

A corrected version of the article appears on the Plain Press website at: [www.plainpress.org](http://www.plainpress.org).

to Inclusivity"? Perhaps because during that a period of time the said developer was elected to serve as a Board Member of TWDC? In April of 2018, Mr. Rosen resigned his board seat claiming conflicts of interest either real or perceived. Could this be all about large future development projects? Development fees? Funding?

The TWDC letter is not accurate to the amount of service time between TWDC and Lincoln Heights. The Block Club was recognized by TWDC and services were provided for well over 25 years. Our Block Club changed its name from The Scranton - Starkweather Block Club to the Lincoln Heights Block Club when first enacting bylaws in April 2004.

The TWDC statement said it will still provide services to residents and stakeholders in our designated service area. Do you think the majority of our membership will be willing to contact them? This Board Action was meant to silence people from speaking collectively through their recognized block club and to take away our members rights of due process when it comes to zoning and planning matters. All while many of the property owners here are low income, retired, Hispanic or African Americans many of whom are having large difficulty since new development in Tremont has jacked up their property taxes 200% to 300% percent. Who protects their interests when they cannot afford to pay property taxes or from getting weekly letters from realtors, developers, and speculators eventually leading to foreclosures, land grabs, and further gentrification?

The TWDC Board is claiming that we are discriminating against members that do not own property. To be clear any resident living in our service area is automatically a block club member when they attend their first meeting and sign in. The sign in sheet does not ask if you are a property owner or tenant. All members have to meet attendance requirements prior to be granted voting status, similar to every block club in Tremont. What is a true Definition of "Democratic Process"?

Our By-laws provide a remedy to this matter if the membership felt this was a real issue. If this was an issue to tenants living in Sustainable's buildings, simply all they would have to do is come in mass, attend three block club meetings, at the fourth meeting make a motion and second a motion to amend the By-laws in question. The question would go to vote at the following month's meet-

Thanks for "heartful story

**To the Editor:**  
 While visiting Metro hospital yesterday (April 2), I picked up your paper and brief through it.

I truly enjoyed reading the heartful story "Near West Side's couple's love spans across seven decades" in memory of "Judith Ann Peterson Horvath".

Thanks for the family's sharing of their parents. I, the reader, could feel the love of family, community and for others.

This article was encouraging and made my heart feel warm and I smiled.

Thanks, from a reader.

Robertha Spann  
 Cleveland

ing. If enough concerned parties attended, clearly the clause could and would be removed by a 67% affirmative vote.

The Lincoln Heights Block Club voted to amend the bylaws in December 2014. We made significant changes from the originating residential based club that first enacted bylaws in 2004. We were the first Block Club in Tremont to create bylaws. Almost every other Tremont Block Club used some of our language as a template to create their own regulations.

Our amendments in 2014 were passed unanimously and were meant to be inclusive. We studied the relevant City Codified Ordinances, State of Ohio Law, and the Cleveland Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) Rules and Regulations. Chapter 329.01(j) of the Cleveland Codified Ord., Chapter 713.12 of the Ohio Revised Code. Both state official notification is only made to "directly affected property owners or their agents". Furthermore, when it comes to being notified by Cleveland City Council Committee structures on Neighborhood Planning changes, there are two very clear statements directly on the envelope "Important official notice to the property owner" and "Janitor or Tenant: Please forward without delay to owner."

Those statements have legal meaning. The best statement was made after the April 2019 Block Club meeting, by a former officer, TWDC should work with the legislative branch of the City of Cleveland to amend the official notification procedures for BZA hearings, Planning notifications and Council Committees, if it was meant for any resident (property owner or tenant) to receive notice it needs to start at the City of Cleveland. If they change their notification policies and procedures, I am sure the Block Club would follow suit and do the same based on the City's actions.

In review of each of the bylaws of other Tremont Block Club's, you can **continued on page 7**



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
 Sunday, April 14, 2019; Denison Avenue United Church of Christ, 9900 Denison Avenue: (L-R) Neighborhood Family Practice Medical Assistant Aida Caraballo and Neighborhood Family Practice Doula Arielle Tiggs visit with members of the Denison Avenue United Church of Christ. See related article online at [www.plainpress.org](http://www.plainpress.org)

A call for restoring the full funding originally promised to Comprehensive Extracurricular Activities Program

**To the editor:**

This was said about holding children in cages, "There is no situation where it is ok for innocent children to be taken advantage of by anyone." I am sure you all agree. So where do we draw the line?

I have informed each board member of the yearly theft of \$1million from the children by the mayor. I have also made the public aware and will do so again. What the mayor has done and continues to do is not only an attack on children but also on the sanctity of the vote in a democracy.

Back in the 90's the football gods extorted the county and city into funding a half-billion-dollar stadium. This came with a tax abatement for life of \$4.5million, thus depriving the children of approximately \$2.3mill per year.

The powers forgot to build in maintenance money for the stadium. They introduced ord1025.95-A, the parking, entertainment and leasing tax. Council balked and a deal was struck to hold the children harmless for the abatement in the amount of \$2mill per year. Council feared for the children and language was installed which stated that the children must be paid first, then the stadium and if any money remained the city could use it.

The children received \$2 million each year from 1996 up to 2009, when the stadium spent \$4 million more than the \$2 million it was given. That was when the mayor began taking \$1million of the children's \$2million. This was done in secret without any discussion or public approval by the appointed board.

In 2010, when we had real budget meetings, I accidentally discovered this travesty. I thought that restoring this money

would be a no-brainer because it was inherently wrong. The yearly theft from the highly successful Comprehensive Extracurricular Activities Program continues to this day, a total loss of \$9 million.

The mayor's first rationalization of the theft was that the ordinance did not specifically state the amount of \$2 million per year. This was weak since the intent to hold the children harmless was established by the ordinance language and the precedent set by the \$2 million payment each year from 1996 to 2008.

The mayor has shifted his position to, "it doesn't matter because holding the children harmless was added to ensure that the ordinance would pass." This is even more troubling because it breaks the promise to those who voted for the ordinance. Note, this is a lucrative tax. Last year it generated approx. \$33 million rising from the \$19 million initially. So where do you draw the line? Your allegiance should be to the children, then to the tax payer/voter, not to the mayor and his agenda.

Gene Tracy, Tremont neighborhood

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Serves Cleveland Seniors 60+ and adults with disabilities:

**HEAP-** The Home Energy Assistance Program is a federally funded program that provides eligible residents assistance with their home energy bills. This one-time benefit is applied directly to the customer's utility bill. Residents with a household income at or below 175 % of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are eligible for the program. One-on-one application assistance is available in our office, at recreation centers (call for schedule) and when needed in an individual's home.

Other Programs of the Department of Aging include:

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Mark your Calendar for Senior Day—May 21st at Public Hall

Call (216) 664-2833 or email [Aging@city.cleveland.oh.us](mailto: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

**Plain Press**  
 2012 W. 25th STE 500  
 Cleveland, OH 44113  
 Phone: (216) 621-3060  
 email: [plainpress@gmail.com](mailto:plainpress@gmail.com)  
 Advertising email: [plainpressads@yahoo.com](mailto:plainpressads@yahoo.com)  
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 Photo Editor: Coriana Close;  
 Photographer: Michael Oakar  
 Advertising Sales: Ed Tishel  
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**Christ congregation after services on Palm Sunday. Neighborhood Family Practice staff visit the church quarterly to provide information about Neighborhood Family Practice's Pregnancy Care and the Centering Pregnancy Program. The program offers support groups for pregnant women and mothers, including nurse-midwifery services and doulas (a parenting mentor). The Centering support groups bring together pregnant women with similar due dates to share their experience and offer each other support.**

**LINCOLN HEIGHTS BYLAWS**

continued from page one

going on across the country," she said. "We invest heavily in the medical care they need. The work of the APL has changed significant over the years and in addition to providing more advance care to homeless animals in the shelter, we're also trying to extend more care to lower income families. As a result, we're looking to make significant modifications that will allow us to support those incentives."

APL's primary source of funding is through contributions from individuals, corporate support with secondary support from service revenue such as adoption and surrender fees, according to their website.

But the main event of the night was the ongoing conflict between Lincoln Heights Block Club, Tremont West Development Corporation, and Sustainable Community Associates, over voting rights for non-property owners when it comes to property rights.

In October 2018, Sustainable Community Associates sent Tremont West Development Corporation a letter calling for a review of the Lincoln Heights Block Club bylaws and voting policy for non-landowners, asking to revoke their sponsorship of the block club if the policy wasn't changed to include all neighborhood residents. Prior to the letter, TWDC passed an inclusivity resolution in March 2018 asking Lincoln Heights

Executive Director Cory Riordan noted that while the *Plain Press* article sparked commotion within the community, the central issue remained the same: a democratically run block club was in the best interest of the Lincoln Heights Block Club.

"We're giving the block club ample opportunity to align with our Code of Regulations," he said, "to insure voting rights in the neighborhood regardless of whether it's Lincoln Heights or any other block club."

Constituency groups like block clubs are independent of TWDC, Senyak argued, setting the stage for a final showdown between the two community organizations about representing the interests of property owners and non-property owners.

"If we're going to continue to have conflicting stories reported in the media we may have to change our policy by banning reporters from our meetings," said Senyak. "The *Plain Press* may get a letter from my attorney."

As the noise level rose to a high pitch, with emotions expressed for and against amending the bylaws, while opinions on both sides debated the accuracy of the *Plain Press* article, Senyak tried to take back the meeting. Josh Rosen challenged the relevance of limiting voting rights to property owners on property issues as the meeting neared the two-hour mark. With 10 votes in favor of the amendment, and 6 votes against, and without a two-thirds majority, the bylaws will remain the same.

Riordan emphasized that since an inclusivity resolution was passed a year

ago and the block club was asked to adhere but has not amended their bylaws, TWDC Board of Directors will decide how to proceed including a possible break of all ties with the longstanding block club. Whether a vote to break ties between TWDC and the block club will result in less opportunity for residents to voice their concerns about neighborhood issues remains to be seen.

"The essence of the story is that there is a conflict within your group," said Hoven. "It's something people can relate to."

In a meeting that went late into the evening on April 15th, TWDC Executive Board discussed their next move in dealing with the Lincoln Heights Block Club. Two days later, on the eve of the Tremont West Board of Directors meeting in which a resolution to possibly break ties with the Lincoln Heights Block Club was on the agenda, Josh Rosen, Co-Founder of Sustainable Community Associates, sent the *Plain Press* an email asking the paper to reprint a letter in response to the recent allegations surrounding racism and exclusivity rights that have escalated the conflict. Here is the email in its entirety:

"Invitations for voting rights should not be withheld because you fear how a certain person, in this instance someone who rents rather than owns property, might vote on a particular property issue. A community organizing group should provide equal access and rights to all members, regardless of how you presume (perhaps incorrectly!) a renter might vote. At the essence of inclusive community organizing should be the principle that all people are welcomed in equal ways, that ideas will be debated and maybe even pushed back against. These occasional disagreements are what make a community a changing and dynamic organism. Harnessing these changes is a better approach than fearing change. *We should not rely on how things were done years ago as a justification for why they are being done a certain way today.* Sometimes home owners might win debates. Sometimes home owners might disagree with one another. Other times they might have to convince renters, and so on and so forth. *So, it goes, in the public square.*"

"For the time Tremont West has spent discussing inclusivity and the grants they have received with a more inclusive community as its goal, I hope the board and executive director are joined by Councilman McCormack in taking an unambiguous, full-throated public stance against the voting rights policy of Lincoln Heights."

On April 18th during a board meeting held at the South Branch Cleveland Public Library, a majority of TWDC Board of Directors cast a vote in favor

**Cleveland plans to transform recreation centers to include neighborhood resources**

**FIRST CITY IN THE NATION TO OFFER TRAUMA INFORMED CARE AT ITS RECREATION CENTERS**

by Chuck Hoven

At an April 10th news conference with members of the Neighborhood & Community Media Association of Greater Cleveland, Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson and Chief Tracy Martin-Thompson, of the Mayor's Office of Prevention, Intervention and Opportunities for Youth and Young Adults, shared their plans to transform Cleveland's 22 Recreation Centers into Neighborhood Resource and Recreation Centers.

Mayor Jackson shared some background on how the idea for the transformation of the recreation centers came about. He said, in planning around the City of Cleveland's response to the Consent Decree with the United States Department of Justice, the city was looking at crime, particularly violent crime and gun violence associated with youth.

A 2017, a City of Cleveland report titled, "A New Model for Addressing Youth Violence as a Public Health Issue" called for addressing youth violence as a public health issue rather than just a public safety issue.

Mayor Jackson said that the social and economic indicators in some neighborhoods where crime is prevalent, fit the definition of a toxic environment. Youths in these neighborhoods, he said, are experiencing traumatic situations resulting in their suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Chief Martin-Thompson said the City of Cleveland effort to treat youth

coming from the paper," he added. "You're shooting the messenger."

Senyak made the Rosen letter available to the newspaper several months ago. Both Rosen and Riordan declined to comment on the content of the letter. Inaccuracy in reporting the final vote tally during the March 11th meeting by the *Plain Press* was also cited as creating confusion by Senyak. Hoven confirmed that any inaccuracies between the article and final vote count indicated in the minutes of the Lincoln Heights Block Club would be corrected in a future publication.

What's clear, however, is that block club members are tired of hearing about bylaw amendments.

"A reporter can't interpret a story," added Helen Ibrahim. "You have to have all of the facts. The reporter should investigate the story more."

Hoven asked for clarity on any inaccuracies in the newspaper article, reminding readers that the issue discussed was between Sustainable Community Associates and the Lincoln Heights Block Club. But the conversation quickly shifted back to TWDC.

Executive Director Cory Riordan noted that while the *Plain Press* article sparked commotion within the community, the central issue remained the same: a democratically run block club was in the best interest of the Lincoln Heights Block Club.

"We're giving the block club ample opportunity to align with our Code of Regulations," he said, "to insure voting rights in the neighborhood regardless of whether it's Lincoln Heights or any other block club."

Constituency groups like block clubs are independent of TWDC, Senyak argued, setting the stage for a final showdown between the two community organizations about representing the interests of property owners and non-property owners.

"If we're going to continue to have conflicting stories reported in the media we may have to change our policy by banning reporters from our meetings," said Senyak. "The *Plain Press* may get a letter from my attorney."

As the noise level rose to a high pitch, with emotions expressed for and against amending the bylaws, while opinions on both sides debated the accuracy of the *Plain Press* article, Senyak tried to take back the meeting. Josh Rosen challenged the relevance of limiting voting rights to property owners on property issues as the meeting neared the two-hour mark. With 10 votes in favor of the amendment, and 6 votes against, and without a two-thirds majority, the bylaws will remain the same.

Riordan emphasized that since an inclusivity resolution was passed a year

ago and the block club was asked to adhere but has not amended their bylaws, TWDC Board of Directors will decide how to proceed including a possible break of all ties with the longstanding block club. Whether a vote to break ties between TWDC and the block club will result in less opportunity for residents to voice their concerns about neighborhood issues remains to be seen.

"The essence of the story is that there is a conflict within your group," said Hoven. "It's something people can relate to."

In a meeting that went late into the evening on April 15th, TWDC Executive Board discussed their next move in dealing with the Lincoln Heights Block Club. Two days later, on the eve of the Tremont West Board of Directors meeting in which a resolution to possibly break ties with the Lincoln Heights Block Club was on the agenda, Josh Rosen, Co-Founder of Sustainable Community Associates, sent the *Plain Press* an email asking the paper to reprint a letter in response to the recent allegations surrounding racism and exclusivity rights that have escalated the conflict. Here is the email in its entirety:

"Invitations for voting rights should not be withheld because you fear how a certain person, in this instance someone who rents rather than owns property, might vote on a particular property issue. A community organizing group should provide equal access and rights to all members, regardless of how you presume (perhaps incorrectly!) a renter might vote. At the essence of inclusive community organizing should be the principle that all people are welcomed in equal ways, that ideas will be debated and maybe even pushed back against. These occasional disagreements are what make a community a changing and dynamic organism. Harnessing these changes is a better approach than fearing change. *We should not rely on how things were done years ago as a justification for why they are being done a certain way today.* Sometimes home owners might win debates. Sometimes home owners might disagree with one another. Other times they might have to convince renters, and so on and so forth. *So, it goes, in the public square.*"

"For the time Tremont West has spent discussing inclusivity and the grants they have received with a more inclusive community as its goal, I hope the board and executive director are joined by Councilman McCormack in taking an unambiguous, full-throated public stance against the voting rights policy of Lincoln Heights."

On April 18th during a board meeting held at the South Branch Cleveland Public Library, a majority of TWDC Board of Directors cast a vote in favor

homeless shelters, Cleveland will be a pioneer, the first city in the country to implement such a program through its recreation centers.

Chief Martin-Thompson says the mental health service provider, Front Line Services, is partnering with the City of Cleveland to help implement this program. Thus far, they have assigned two supervisors and ten social workers to work on the program. Each social worker will act as a trauma coach and will work with two Cleveland recreation centers.

Mayor Jackson said the program will roll out gradually. He said he expects it will take more than a year to get it up and running. He noted that legislation has been introduced to Cleveland City Council and requests for proposals were sent out in October of last year. Various community organizations and service providers have responded to the proposals and they are being reviewed. Jackson said that each recreation center will have different services depending on the needs of the neighborhood and the proposals that have been accepted.

As to how many people the program will potentially reach, the Mayor's Office Social Media and Digital Communications Manager, Nancy Kelsey says Cleveland's twenty-two Recreation Centers have an average of 16,000 visitors per week. Mayor Jackson acknowledged that not everyone will want to access the

continued on page 5

of suspending the relationship between Tremont West and Lincoln Heights.

Lincoln Heights Block Club members received an email letter a few days later from Kate Carden, TWDC Board President, stating, "The Lincoln Heights Block Club was found to have by-laws not consistent with the inclusivity resolution..."

As such, the Board of Directors of Tremont West Development Corporation is suspending recognition of the block club. In practicality, this means that staffing, printing, mailing and other services related to the upkeep of the block club will no longer be rendered by Tremont West. The Board does not take this action lightly and recognizes the 15 years of collaboration and cooperation between Tremont West and Lincoln Heights Block Club.

As the block club is an independent organization, it can and most likely will continue to operate. At any time, the block club revises their by-laws to be in accordance with the Tremont West Inclusivity Resolution and the Code of Regulations stipulation of a "democratically run" constituent group, services and support will be restored.

Tremont West Development Corporation takes its responsibility of service to the entire Tremont Service Area seriously. Although we are suspending recognition of Lincoln Heights Block Club, we will continue to work with residents and stakeholders in providing services and resources."

The block club can reorganize and return to Tremont West if they choose to do so, according to the governing board. Otherwise, a separate entity, a second block club, can organize and seek a new relationship with TWDC. "They can reform a block club, they just have to be inclusive and not discriminatory on property rights and poll taxes," said Lynn McLaughlin Murray, Treasurer, adding, "We hope they go out in the next month and reform a block club that has bylaws that are inclusive."

"It's probably easier to start again rather than rewrite the bylaws," added Joe Chura, 1st Vice President of Tremont West. "It's also important to note that this is a block club that is in the next hot center of activity in Tremont. We will continue to support the residents just not through a block club."

The door remains open for neighborhood organizers to comply with the inclusivity resolution or seek financial support for the block club elsewhere. Either way, this diverse community remains divided with residents are looking for path forward.

**Editor's Note:** Please view the letter to the editor on page 3 for the Lincoln Heights Block Club response to Tremont West Development Corporation's decision.

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**ACTION TO STEM CLIMATE CHANGE**

continued from page one

enist James Hansen warned that rising carbon dioxide levels were a real threat to our future. Beach said that the crisis of climate change is different from that of nuclear annihilation. "With the threat of nuclear weapons," he said, "someone has to do something for a catastrophe to occur. With climate change, the deadline is imposed by nature."

Beach encouraged those present, a mix of Near West Side residents and Cleveland Peace Action members, to view two important reports released at the end of last year.

One of the reports is from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and can be accessed at <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15>. Beach says this report looks at the difference in impact on the earth of a rise in average temperature of 1.5 degrees Celsius and a rise in average temperature of 2 degrees Celsius.

The second report, which Beach says contains some useful information, is the Fourth National Climate Assessment available on the government website at [www.globalchange.gov/nca4](http://www.globalchange.gov/nca4).

Beach said the main thing to take away from these reports is "the science is stronger than ever. We know that Climate Change is happening faster now than any time in history." Beach said that the IPCC report indicates a substantial difference in Climate Change between a temperature rise of 1.5 degrees

**RECREATION CENTERS**

continued from page 4

help available.

Jackson said his administration has allocated one million dollars to the trauma coaches and another \$2 million to develop programming "above what we do at the recreation centers" at the new Neighborhood Resource and Recreation Centers. Jackson says that the formal name changes at the recreation centers will not occur until the programs are up and running.

Chief Martin-Thompson says the request for proposals sent out fall into six categories of services they hope to have at the new Neighborhood Resource and Recreation Centers. She said the categories are: Youth and Adult Education; Job and Career Readiness; Health and Wellness; Youth Development, Mentorship, Leadership and Community Service; The Arts; and Sports and Recreation.

Martin-Thompson elaborated on some of the services that the city hopes to provide in the centers. Youth and adult education services will include post-secondary educational support such as ACT and SAT test preparation and help with college applications. Adult education will include GED test preparation and English as a Second Language classes.

Job and Career Readiness will include job training, connections to job appointments, career planning, and follow-up career planning for individuals with entry level jobs, said Martin-Thompson.

Health and Wellness programming will include chronic disease management and other health services, she said.

Community programs that emphasize developing youth leadership and creating mentoring programs will be part of the new centers, Chief Martin-Thompson said.

In addition, the new centers will develop single gender programs for youth. Martin-Thompson said that Front Line surveyed girls from around the city to find out what types of programs they needed. Requests came for help addressing sexual issues, body image issues and identity. Concerning arts programing at the

Celsius to 2.0 degrees Celsius. With a rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius there will be less storms, less loss of ecosystems, and less flooding, droughts, extreme heat, sea level rise, water scarcity, coral bleaching, human poverty and displacement.

Beach said a goal of reducing carbon emissions by 45% by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050 would have huge benefits and help make a transition in time to create a reduction in the catastrophic climate disruption we are currently facing. A move toward a green economy would create good jobs, better health, and lead to the preservation of nature, said Beach.

Climate Change is already contributing to the United States Southern border crisis, said Beach. He said rising temperatures have led to the drying out of the highlands in Guatemala, causing people to migrate north.

The Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Biodiversity predicts a severe impact in Northeast Ohio from high concentrations of carbon in the atmosphere if nothing is done to address it, said Beach. Local predictions include 5.2 more inches of precipitation per year, and an 11-degree Fahrenheit rise in the mean annual temperature

Plant hardness zones will shift two full zones, and the number of days with temperatures above 86 degrees Fahrenheit will be equivalent to four months out of the year. One third of the tree species in our area would

new centers, Martin-Thompson said the community has shown "significant desire for community arts programming from the visual arts to performing arts."

Under sports and recreation, Chief Martin-Thompson says she hopes to expand access to existing programs and add sports such as skiing and gymnastics.

Speaking of the goal of the services the city will offer in the six categories, Mayor Jackson said, "These new services are aimed at empowering youth and young adults to explore new opportunities that will allow them to become more well-rounded and successful."

This summer, as part of the program, Martin-Thompson said the City of Cleveland will work with Youth Opportunities Unlimited to provide youth with 400 jobs in the Department of Public Utilities and 20 paid internships in Cleveland City Hall. The summer jobs and internships will be available to tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade students, she said.

Martin-Thompson says her department also plans to work with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and Say Yes to Education to develop an out of school time component to the Say Yes to Education programming.

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be less able to survive.

Beach said the Green New Deal, legislation proposed by United States Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of (D-14) New York and United States Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts calls on Congress to appoint a Select Committee to draft legislation for a national ten-year mobilization to get to net zero greenhouse gas emissions. The proposal also calls for an attack on economic inequality. Beach says you can't do one without the other as the frontline communities impacted by climate change will be the most vulnerable low-income communities. The bill, House Resolution 109, is available for viewing at: [www.congress.gov/bill/116/congress](http://www.congress.gov/bill/116/congress).

Beach took a stab at some of the criticisms of the Green New Deal - i.e. cost too much, no more cars/hamburgers, naïve, wait your turn, elitist, government programs aren't the solution, and it trying to do too much - it should just focus on energy.

Speaking to the cost of not addressing climate change, Beach noted the number of billion dollar plus disasters in the United States in just the past year. He said, "there is nothing elitist about this. This is a fight for survival." Beach also showed a chart from the United States Energy Administration that computes leveled cost and leveled avoided costs of different energy sources that shows that the cost of wind and solar are much cheaper than coal.

In speaking about how to bring about political change, Beach said, "It will take a mass mobilization to make this happen." He called for both mobilization, and contacting Congressional representatives. He noted that no Ohio Congress people have signed on to support the Green New Deal. Beach said, "We should be pressing them."

While fear of the impact of climate change is mounting as a motivator for change, Beach said, "We also

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**Thursday, April 11, 2019; Cleveland Metropolitan School District's City-wide Analysis for Long Term Planning, Garrett Morgan High School, 4016 Woodbine Avenue: Cleveland Metropolitan School District Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon explains how the school district will include public comments in its long-term planning process.**

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

have to show hope." As a sign of hope for the future, Beach cited the efforts of 16-year-old Swedish Student Activist Greta Thunberg who is leading a global strike by students to protest the inaction of politicians in dealing with the climate crisis.

Beach read a passage published in the Guardian on March 1, 2019 from the Global Coordination Group of the Youth-led Climate Strike

inspired by Thunberg which starts out saying: "We the young are deeply concerned about our future. Humanity is currently causing the sixth mass extinction of species and the global climate system is at the brink of a catastrophic crisis. Its devastating impacts are already felt by millions of people around the globe. Yet we are far from reaching the goals of the Paris agreement..."

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Wednesday, April 10, 2019; Mayor Frank Jackson Administration's press conference with the Neighborhood & Community Media Association of Greater Cleveland, Cleveland City Hall: E 6<sup>th</sup> and Lakeside: Tracy Martin-Thompson, Chief of the Mayor's Office of Prevention, Intervention and Opportunities for Youth and Young Adults, explains plans by the City of Cleveland to transition its recreation centers to serve as neighborhood resource and recreation centers.

**BEATING GUNS TOUR**

continued from page one

Martin said the tragic slaughter at Sandy Hook woke him up. He began to search for another path and became a blacksmith working to turn guns into garden tools. He said the metal from the guns will be used "to cultivate life, instead of taking life." Claiborne said their journey of

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inviting others to participate in forging plows from guns started when "Mike & I found a handgun in an abandoned house."

The pair engaged in a public demonstration in Philadelphia outside Senator Pat Toomey's office where they turned an AR-15 weapon into a plowshare. They said that Senator Toomey had come out strong for doing something about gun violence after the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, but his language had reverted to "thoughts and prayers." Claiborne said when the police arrested forty people at the demonstration, the police told them that they supported their efforts to get guns off the streets. Three weeks after their arrest, Claiborne said they were released without any charges.

David Eggert, a member of God Before Guns, and also the founder of Ohioans for Gun Safety, spoke of how he was able to purchase the AR-15 that was being forged into a garden tool at Pilgrim Church. He said the AR-15 is a military style assault weapon – the same model used at Sandy Hook. Eggert said he

went online and was able to arrange with a seller to purchase the gun. He met the seller at an agreed upon location, showed him his driver's license and made the purchase. There was no background check. Eggert said the seller had no idea who he was and whether or not he was a felon. Eggert called for support of placing on the Ohio ballot a measure backed by Ohioans for Gun Safety to require background checks for all gun purchasers in Ohio.

Mike Martin of the Beating Guns Tour cited some statistics noting that the United States has about 5% of the world's population, but almost half the world's guns. He said there are 5 times as many gun dealers in the United States as there are McDonald's restaurants. He noted that there are about 109-gun deaths per day in the United States. Martin said there were 38,000 gun deaths this past year in the United States. He said, there were at least 30,000 gun deaths in the United States each

year for the past three decades, with many other individuals that were wounded by gun fire, but not killed. Following Martin's citation of statistics, Rev. Kristine Eggert of God Before Guns repeated something Mike Martin had said that morning on Cleveland Public Radio's Sound of Ideas, she quoted Martin as saying, "The gun violence problem in this country will not be solved until it becomes personal." To that end Rev. Eggert invited gun violence victims, survivors and their family members to come forward to tell their stories.

Judy Martin stepped forward first. She related the story of losing her son, Christopher Lee, in 1994 to gun violence. She said her son was 23 years old at the time. The person who shot him was 21 years old and has been in prison ever since. She said the loss of her son and the imprisonment of the person who shot him resulted in two huge holes in our society. Martin said that in Cuyahoga County we have lost 1,859 individuals age 25 and under to gun violence since 1990. Martin said the only group that reached out to her when her son was killed was Black on Black Crime. Martin said she has been involved with the group ever since and participates in a Black on Black Crime support group for survivors, victims and families that meets every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. 15415 Kipling just off of St. Clair.

Jeanie McCalep said she wore red to this gathering to signify all the bloodshed in the street, and black to signify the cloud that has come over her family because of gun violence. McCalep said she had a cousin die of a gunshot wound in 1983. In 2005, her son was murdered, and her other son was shot five times, but survived. In 2009, she lost a nephew to gun violence and in 2018, her daughter was murdered. McCalep said there was a need for more mentors for young people and called for something to be done about violent video games. She said we should get rid of bb guns – they should not be given to children.

Terrance "Tank" Holden said an old guy pulled a gun on him and he struggled with him – fighting for his life. He said he ended up as a gunshot wound victim.

LaTonya Goldsby spoke of the killing of her 12-year-old cousin Tamir Rice by a Cleveland Police Officer. "Police Violence is gun violence,"

she said. Goldsby said Tamir Rice's death was not her first encounter with gun violence. She said many children in Cleveland grow up going to the funerals of gun violence victims. She said that two years after Tamir Rice's death, her son-in-law lost his life to gun violence leaving her daughter behind pregnant with her second child. Goldsby said her son-in-law lost his wallet and somebody found it. When he went to meet the person to retrieve the wallet, he was shot and killed.

As the testimonies from residents flowed out to the audience at Pilgrim Church, they were accompanied by the guitar playing of Noah Budin of Cleveland and the singing of Rev. Jonathan Brooks of Chicago urging "love, peace, and prayer" and lyrics from *Down by the Riverside* declaring "Ain't gonna to study war no more."

A woman whose brother was killed at age 20 when he asked for insurance information after a traffic accident, spoke out against pursuing the death penalty for his killer. She said killing him won't bring our brother back. She urged those present to "reject the myth that executions help victim's families." She said we should stop wasting resources on executions and instead provide resources to all victims and their families. She said her family would have benefited from having counseling following the death of her brother. The woman identified herself as a member of Ohioans to Stop Execution's Journey of Hope

The Rev. Jack Sullivan Jr., Executive Director of Ohioans to Stop Execution's Journey of Hope, said in 1997, his baby sister, Jennifer was shot to death with her two-year-old daughter in the home with her. He spoke of the experience of having to identify his sister at the morgue after the shooting and how that affected him. Rev. Sullivan said following the death of his sister he began to detest guns. "The only good gun is a melted gun. We have to work collectively to end Americans' idolatry of guns – a modern day idolatry." Reverend Sullivan urged those present to "Find guns and beat them & melt them into something productive, something good. Turn guns into something good by beating them into garden tools."

After that testimony the crowd was ushered outside in front of Pilgrim

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**The West Side Tree Stewards and YOU can help our neighborhood be the RE-FOREST CITY!**

We're betting you already knew that Cleveland used to be called the FOREST CITY. The West Side Tree Stewards (a band of local Sherwick Tree Steward Training program graduates) want to help Cleveland's Eco-Village and Detroit-Shoreway Community RE-FOREST the City – for all the many benefits that trees bestow on any urban neighborhood, and because we just LOVE trees.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

Come to the **Tree Top Talk** to learn about the RE-Forest project, more about the value of trees in the urban landscape, and how YOU can get involved. Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm—in the Sanctuary of Calvary Reformed Church, 1918 W. 65<sup>th</sup> St.

Come out to help us **plant new trees** on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> on Pear and Wakefield Avenues. Please call 216.515.8300 or email [dwtatson3606@gmail.com](mailto:dwtatson3606@gmail.com) to sign up to volunteer.

Help us plan for future plantings on other neighborhood streets where residents want more trees!

**BACKGROUND:**

Cleveland's tree canopy (the

layer of tree leaves and branches that cover the ground when viewed from above) has degraded over time. Detroit Shoreway in particular has a low 19% canopy cover. Trees not only bring beauty, but improve the environment that we live in and reduce utility costs significantly. If you are interested in learning more about trees in Cleveland, you can take a look at the Cleveland Tree Plan at <http://www.clevelandtrees.org/cleveland-tree-plan/>.

A group of neighbors have completed the Sherwick Tree Steward Training Program led by Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Holden Forests & Gardens. Through this program we learned how to properly plant, care for, and maintain neighborhood trees. With support from the Land Conservancy, Holden Forests & Gardens, as well as Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization, and Councilman Matt Zone, we're aiming to put our training to work and build Cleveland's tree canopy in our neighborhood.

We would appreciate your support in this tree planting – with hopes

that we can work together to live in a more beautiful neighborhood. You may choose to participate in the planting, which will occur on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and/or you may choose to take the free training to become a Tree Steward yourself (next class starts May 6<sup>th</sup>! See <https://www.wrlandconservancy.org/whatwedo/reforest-our-city/sherwick-tree-steward-trainings/>). Tree Stewards conduct community organizing, education, tree plantings and help ensure care for the trees we plant. We can also advise you on the care of other trees you may have on your property.

The Tree Stewards for the Pear and Wakefield Avenue plantings are Dolores Watson, who can be reached at [dwtatson3606@gmail.com](mailto:dwtatson3606@gmail.com) and Sasha Ottoson-Deal at [sasha.emilie@gmail.com](mailto:sasha.emilie@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support as well as our community partners: West Side Tree Stewards, Holden Forest & Gardens and Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Cleveland City Council - Matt Zone, Ward 15, Detroit-Shoreway Community Development Organization, and Calvary Reformed Church.

**LINCOLN HEIGHTS**

continued from page 2

pinpoint one or two statements to be possibly discriminatory. Why single out the Lincoln Heights Block Club, when we follow Board of Zoning Appeals rules and regulations?

**LETTER**

We found this statement while researching case law: "The right of property is the guardian of every other right and to deprive the people of this, is in fact to deprive them of their liberty." — Arthur Lee of Virginia, 1775  
*Property rights are the substance of a free society. They are vital to our democracy, to our government, and to our freedom.*

We again ask: To Whom are we discriminating against? We are the most diverse Block Club in Tremont. Below are our voting regulations.

Attached again are our full bylaws. (view online at [www.plainpress.org](http://www.plainpress.org))  
See voting regulations below.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry P. Senyak, Chairperson  
Lincoln Heights Block Club  
Lincoln Heights Block Club  
Voting Regulations:

A) Voting in the Lincoln Heights Block Club is limited to the defined membership above who have attended three meetings in the prior twelve-month period of that specific block club meeting.

B) Voting on inherent property rights, will be limited to membership that are owners of real property within the block club service area, which is defined as residential ownership or commercial ownership in adherence to subsection A. Inherent property rights generally require official notification from the City of Cleveland to property owners. (BZA, BBS, Planning Commission & Landmarks Commission agenda items)

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**COMMUNITY BOARD**

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for upcoming spring events. If interested in getting involved or if you have questions email Brooke at [bhodge@towardsemployment.org](mailto:bhodge@towardsemployment.org). Volunteer opportunities include helping deliver Bloom Bakery baskets to community partners on April 5; training to be a retail specialist to help out at Bloom Bakery booth at Cleveland Flea this summer, and conducting mock interview to help participants prepare for the real thing.

**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, where 500 volunteers are needed. People can register now at [SoundTheAlarm.org/NEO](http://SoundTheAlarm.org/NEO) or can call 216-431-3328 to volunteer at home fire safety and smoke alarm installation events across Northeast Ohio.

**BROOKSIDE FAMILY CENTER, 3764 W. 25<sup>th</sup>** is seeking volunteers at its new facility. If interested please contact Kathie at: [ckovackik@svdpcle.org](mailto:ckovackik@svdpcle.org) or 440-503-2462.

**CASA of Cuyahoga County**, a program of Child and Family Advocates of Cuyahoga County, needs volunteers to advocate for children who have been neglected and

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Tuesday, April 9, 2019; Peace@ThePub, Market Garden Brewery, 1947 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street: David Beach, writer, environmental activist, and former director of the Green City Blue Lake Institute makes a presentation

**BEATING GUNS TOUR**

continued from page 6

Church to the forge where a gun was being melted. Each individual that had testified was invited to hammer on the metal from the melted gun as Mike Martin pulled the hot metal out of the forge and placed it on an anvil where participants could hit it with a hammer. Victims of gun violence and their family members were invited to call out the names of those lost to gun violence as they hammered on the metal from the gun – turning it into a gardening tool.

Others followed the family members. Chari Hettinger of the Church of the Epiphany said she was hammering "for all the people that are going to die before our country does away with guns."

Following the work at the forge, those present were invited to come back inside of Pilgrim Church for some closing remarks.

Shane Claiborne of the Beating Guns Tour urged activism saying, "Good things come to those who get off their butts and make things happen."

Michael Martin of the Beating Guns Tour held up a garden tool that had been forged at an event in Kent, Ohio, saying the small hand-

held plow was called a Mattock. He said the metal that forged it had once been part of a semi-automatic gun. It had gone from "semi-automatic to Mattock," he said.

Pilgrim Church Pastor Kelly Burd spoke to the crowd saying, "If you are a person of faith, don't underestimate your calling to be a peacemaker."

Rev. Kristine Eggert of God Before Guns said in the wake of so much gun violence in America "Thoughts and Prayers" will not suffice. She called for activism. She urged those present to get involved in groups such as Peace in the Hood, Black on Black Crime, Tamir Rice Foundation, Ohioans to Stop Executions, God Before Guns, and Ohioans for Gun Safety. "Never doubt you can make a difference," said Eggert.

Eggert urged those present to fight gun bills HB 174 and HB178 that would establish "constitutional carry" in Ohio by abolishing the present permit system for concealed carry of firearms.

**Editor's Note:** The book, *Beating Guns: Hope for People for People Who are Weary of Violence* can be ordered at [BeatingGuns.com](http://BeatingGuns.com). More information on the group God Before Guns can be found at [godbeforeguns.org](http://godbeforeguns.org).

For more neighborhood news coverage visit the Plain Press website at: [www.plainpress.org](http://www.plainpress.org)

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## Saint Ignatius of Antioch Parish celebrates 10th Founder's Day Gala

by Victoria Shea

"Can you believe it has been ten years since we gathered around loved ones and like a phoenix rose from the ashes?" wrote Sister Dianne Piuanno, SND, the pastoral associate for St. Ignatius of Antioch Church. "We are ten years stronger than ever because of everyone and everything you have done to see us to this point of countless blessings."

The story of the annual Founder's Day Gala for St. Ignatius of Antioch, although only ten years old, is truly much older and one could argue, is as old as the parish itself.

Started in 2010 in answer to former Bishop Richard Lennon of the Diocese of Cleveland's notification that St. Ignatius was to close, the annual Founder's Day Gala has helped the parish in answering the four directives required to stay open: improving Mass attendance, strengthening parish finances, showing the ability to complete capital repairs and remaining dedicated to its outreach ministries.

In his letter to the parishioners, alumni and friends who attended the Founder's Day Gala on March 30<sup>th</sup> at LaCentre, St. Ignatius Pastor Father Kevin Estabrook wrote that he was impressed by his parish.

"I am excited and grateful to celebrate with you all this year's Gala," he wrote. "I've been deeply impressed by all the hard work that has gone into making this evening a success. All of the planning, phone calls, and the generosity of our guests shows the great commitment to the parish and school."

A tradition of the Founder's Day Gala is the awarding of The Antioch Chalice Award, which is given to "honor those who have extraordinarily contributed to the strength of Saint Ignatius of Antioch Parish as a place of worship, a community of faith, outreach and education."

This year's Antioch Chalice Award winner was Richard Wild, a parishioner of St. Ignatius of Antioch since 1969, member of the parish finance committee and former athletic leader for the Ignatius Basketball Association (IBA) for 35 years.

"How grateful we are that Rich Wild has been with us from the very beginning," wrote Piuanno in her letter. "Challenging us, encouraging

us, lifting us to do more and to do better. Thank you, Rich, for your sincere dedication and countless hours of reviewing, recording, and revisiting our finances and crunching the numbers until we had it just right."

Presenting Wild the Antioch Chalice Award was Father James McGonegal, former pastor of St. Ignatius of Antioch and the second recipient of the Antioch Chalice Award. In his presentation, McGonegal spoke of his friendship with Wild, often "roasting" him with jokes and stories.

Using words like "kind," "helpful," "dedicated," "funny" and "athletic," McGonegal painted the story of Wild's dedication throughout the years for St. Ignatius of Antioch.

A banker who recently retired after 43 years, Wild severed as athletic director from 1979 to 2014. During his tenure, Wild, with endorsement of pastors Father John Krasen and then Father James McGonegal, renovated the athletic program, "opening the parish doors to all within the community who wished to participate."

Today, the IBA includes students from over 30 schools from grades 3 through 8. Students in the program also focus on academics, and at the 2018 "Championship Night", 74 out of 200 student athletes received academic awards.

Honored to receive the award, Wild spoke briefly about the love of St. Ignatius and his love for his family, before thanking his wife of 54 years, Georgia, who has stood with him through everything he has done throughout the years for the parish.

Piuanno also acknowledged Georgia's dedication to her husband Rich in her letter to those in attendance at the Gala.

"Georgia, we thank you for letting Rich spend countless hours away from home," she wrote. "To assure the people of the parish that we would and could do all that we have been able to accomplish in these ten years."

Wild also thanked the students, volunteers and coaches of the IBA, stating that throughout the years, he has learned new things daily from those involved in the program. Proud of what the parish is doing for the community and especially the youth of the neighborhood, Wild stated that for him though, "It's always about the kids."

## Ten quick and easy style tips for guys

by Silk Allen

When it comes to fashion and style, men always seem to get the short end of the stick. They are either ignored, expected not to care too much about their appearance or are called on to participate in ridiculous trends (like the super flash-in-the-pan male rompers from a few summers ago). But, what about the guy who just wants to look clean, stylish and comfortable? I got you! Read on to see how it could all be so simple...

### Spend vs Save:

Invest in classics, save on trends. Classics last for a long time, trendy items barely last six months before they go out of style. So, invest in dress shirts, polo style shirts and anything you can wear with both jeans and dress pants for a business casual vibe and spend less on logo tees, graphic tees and hoodies.

### 18 and Up:

Buy the best suit you can afford, non-running shoes and a bag for your stuff that doesn't look like you will be late for class or the gym. Take your time purchasing a suit that can be worn together or with separates, and it will last you for a while. Buy the suit in navy blue or gray, not black! There will be some outfits where the Jordan's just won't cut it, so be on the lookout for a nicely made casual shoe that looks great with a nice pair of pants. Ditch the book bag and replace it with a stylish man bag that can be worn across the chest or carried on your shoulder.

### Details Count:

It's the small things that count--wear a watch and set yourself apart from everybody else in the room and join the stylish elite who understand the importance of a watch. You don't have to spend your whole paycheck on a Patek or a Rolex, but make sure that it is a classic piece that can be worn 10 to 20 years from now. Also, learn how to properly tie both a tie and your dress shoes. Oh, and buy a few pairs of dress socks, you can choose fun colors and patterns to let your personality show!

### Identify Your Style Twin:

Whose style do you admire? It can be an athlete, a celebrity or even a fictional character from your favorite television show or movie. It could be a men's style blogger or someone you follow on Instagram. It might



Silk Allen

### FASHION

even be your neighbor, co-worker or a random stranger you saw walking down the street or at the mall. Find someone and figure out what it is about their style that you admire and see how you can adapt it for yourself.

### Level Up:

Purge your closet and get rid of ill fitting, out of date clothing, items with stains on them and anything with logos, graphics or crazy prints. Save some t-shirts for home and the gym, but they should make up less than 25% of your wardrobe, depending on your lifestyle. If you work in an office setting and really only wear your tees on the weekends, then downsize and make room for more business casual pieces. However, if you are a trainer at the gym then it would be the opposite for you. Dress and shop according to how you spend most of your time on a day to day basis.

### Fit is Everything:

The next time you go shopping, try on a shirt and a pair of pants that you normally wear, but also take one size up and one size down with you. Yes, you will try on 3 sets of the same shirt and pants and your body will thank you for it. Eat before you go and bring water in case you get overwhelmed and frustrated. A trusted friend or girlfriend may also be helpful in this situation if you think salespeople are too pushy.

### Upgrade Your Lounge Wear:

Your girl wrote in and told me that she's tired of seeing the same holey boxers and undershirt! Not only that, but she's also ready to burn those baggy shapeless shorts and track pants that you wear to take out the trash, to go to the gym, to chill out in front of Netflix, to play video games, and to sleep. You can do better. Purchase a few causal cotton tees in nice fabrics with a variety of joggers and pajama style pants and update them regularly.

### Develop a Unique Style:

Don't be afraid to shop at vintage, thrift and consignment stores to find the best pieces that very few other people will have. Incorporate one piece into your outfit and this way nobody can bite your style--even if you are wearing a pair of Jordan's. Also, invest in a tailor, or slide it over to your grandmother for a couple of dollars to help alter an item of clothing until it fits you perfectly.

### Subtle Swaps:

Start off slow, building up your wardrobe of classic essentials first, then ease into trends. Don't drastically switch your whole style in the middle of the week. Try something simple--like wearing casual boots with your polo shirt and jeans instead of your standard tennis shoes. Swap out your ratty old zip up hoodie for a fresh jacket and keep evolving your style into something that you are proud of and comfortable with.

### Confidence is Key:

It's so cliché, but for good reason, have the confidence to rock anything otherwise you will always look out of place, uncomfortable and the opposite of stylish. So, step out in your new pants that fit you well and don't forget to smile!

I know that's a lot to take in but to sum it all up: invest in classics, wear a watch, buy a good bag, pay attention to fit, learn where to shop, buy new underwear, chill on the logos, find a style twin and ease into your new look. If you still feel stuck, don't hesitate to email me at [ladysilk@thehouseoffly.com](mailto:ladysilk@thehouseoffly.com) with any questions that you may have.

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titled: *The Green New Deal: why we need an emergency mobilization to fight climate change and economic inequality.* Beach served as editor of the Plain Press in the early 1980s.

Tuesday, April 16, 2019; Beating Guns Tour co-sponsored by God Before Guns and Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, Pilgrim Congregational UCC, 2592 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street: Musicians Noah Budin of Cleveland and Rev. Jonathan Brooks of Chicago offer music and lyrics to accompany the testimony of individuals about how gun violence has affected their lives.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Friday, April 19, 2019; Good Friday Service, St. Patrick Church, W. 38<sup>th</sup> & Bridge Avenue: St. Patrick's Pastor Father Michael K. Gurnick speaks of the passion and death of Jesus Christ.

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

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