



**PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN**  
Wednesday, May 8, 2019; Clark-Fulton Neighborhood FHAct 50 Target Area Plan Kick-off Meeting, City Life Center, 3340 Trowbridge Ave: MetroWest Managing Director Ricardo León says the Clark Fulton neighborhood will be the City of Cleveland designated target neighborhood in a new program designed by the Ohio Housing Finance Authority. See related article on page 5.

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# Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

## Residents and stakeholders speak out about their concerns at TWDC membership meeting

by Bruce Checefsky

"There is a very real threat that the Tremont Montessori School will be removed," said City Councilman Kerry McCormack at the opening of Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC) annual meeting held at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church on West 14<sup>th</sup> Street on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

"We have to be sure not to leave central Tremont with zero public school

presence. I'm going to get in trouble for this, but I don't care," McCormack continued, rattling off an email contact for Eric Gordon, Chief Executive Officer of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), "[eric.gordon@cmsdnet.net](mailto:eric.gordon@cmsdnet.net)."

"We have to put pressure on our public officials to invest in public schools in our neighborhood. Public officials work for us," McCormack reminded over 100 Tremont residents that came out for the annual meeting which included a buffet dinner followed by a meeting, election

and neighborhood awards.

Tremont Montessori is one of the schools the Cleveland school district promised to replace with a new school in a 2014 tax campaign. With only 11 percent of students from within a mile of the school and 45 percent from the East Side, CMSD officials believe the move enable the district to continue the Montessori program in a newer building elsewhere in the school district. In February 2010, the former Tremont Elementary School narrowly avoided closure when then Cleveland Metropolitan School District Superintendent Eugene Sanders vetoed a cost-cutting plan that targeted under-capacity schools, according to the website [clevelandhistorical.org](http://clevelandhistorical.org).

The current Tremont school, built in the 1917, is made of brick, with oak floors, oak rails and a gymnasium, according to the Cleveland Historical website.

In 2005, Tremont Elementary was converted to a Montessori school. This attracted more students, including many from outside the Tremont neighborhood. The threatened shutdown in 2010 brought about a swell of concerned Tremont residents including many without school-age children to successfully protest. The Friends of Tremont School was also founded the same year according to Cleveland Historical.

### Development surge

With increased demand and rising prices for real estate in Tremont, the approximately 2.2- acre property could bring in new housing and retail development to the neighborhood at a premium price.

Market Plaza shopping center in nearby Ohio City sold earlier this year for \$5.58 million to Harbor Bay Real Estate Advisors, a Chicago-area developer. Proposed plans for the 3-acre site

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**PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR**

Saturday, May 4, 2019; Cleveland Public Theatre's presentation of Station Hope, St. John's Episcopal Church, Church Avenue: Artist Ann Marie Suglio, owner of Praxis Gallery, dyes cloth with natural indigo. Praxis Gallery is participating in a public art project creating three sixty-foot banners designed by international and local artists to connect our history to our environment. The number of times residents dip the cloth in the dye depends on where they live. Each neighborhood in Cleveland has a designated number of dips in the dye. From June 21-24, as part of the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cuyahoga River fire, the banners will hang from the Detroit Superior (Veterans' Memorial) Bridge. For more information about the project visit: [praxisfiberworkshop.org/bannersJoin](http://praxisfiberworkshop.org/bannersJoin).



**PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN**

Tuesday, May 21, 2019; Senior Day, Cleveland Public Hall, 500 Lakeside Avenue: City Council Representatives nominated senior citizens in their wards to honor them for their contributions to the City of Cleveland. Honorees above are (L-R): Dolores Watson, Ward 15; Gary Horvath, Ward 3; Julia Smith, Ward 14; John Lavelle, Ward 16; and Barbara C. Rogers, Ward 11.

## Cleveland Metropolitan School District reveals long-term planning recommendations for K- 8 schools

by Chuck Hoven

On May 15<sup>th</sup> at Max Hayes High School, Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Eric Gordon shared his administration's recommendations for the future of kindergarten to grade eight programs and school buildings. The meeting was one of a series of meetings to share the plans with the public and receive feedback. Gordon says he plans to submit the recommendations to the Cleveland Board of Education at its June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and expects the Board of Education to vote on the recommendations at its June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The plan the Board of Education comes up with will begin in the 2020-21 school year.

Gordon said CMSD has an excess of 2,500 seats in new or renovated schools on the East Side and a need for 5,000 seats in new or renovated school buildings on the West Side. One of the goals of the Long-Term School Plan is to move as many students as possible into schools that have been newly built or renovated since the school construction program began in 2002.

In the 2020-21 school year, if the Board of Education accepts the recommendations of the administration,

four K-8 schools on the East Side of Cleveland will close: Willow School at 5004 Glazier Ave; Iowa Maple School at 12510 Maple Ave; Michael R. White School at 1000 E. 92<sup>nd</sup> Street and Case School at 4050 Superior Avenue. Two of the schools recommended for closing were investment schools – Case and Michael R. Whit-- which the school district had promised additional resources to turn around their academic programs following the passage of a school levy. Those efforts failed to change the failing academic ratings of the schools.

The goals of the Long-Term School Plan recommendations are to move as many students as possible into schools with high quality academic programs and new facilities. The buildings being closed are older buildings with failing academic scores on state of Ohio evaluations and declining enrollment or enrollment below the recommended building capacity.

In the West Side neighborhood served by the Plain Press, the recommendations call for consolidation of Clark and Walton schools into one school building; the consolidation of Denison and Charles A. Mooney Schools into one school

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## Local residents honored at Cleveland's Senior Day

The City of Cleveland celebrated Senior Day on May 21<sup>st</sup> and senior citizens from throughout the City of Cleveland came to Public Hall to celebrate. They were greeted as they entered the hall with a program with glossy pictures and

biographies of seventeen seniors being honored this year for their service to the City of Cleveland. One senior citizen was nominated by each City Council Representative.

Honorees in wards served by the Plain

Press included: Gary Horvath in Ward 3; Barbara C. Rogers in Ward 11; Julia Smith in Ward 14; Dolores Watson in Ward 15; and John Lavelle in Ward 16.

The biographies in the program included-

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**PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR**

Saturday, May 4, 2019; Cleveland Public Theatre's presentation of Station Hope, St. John's Episcopal Church, Church Avenue: At the Welcome Table, representing The Lantern Theatre, performers (L-R) Bill Hoffman, Tina D. Stump and Eric Schmiedl sing American songs of freedom and faith.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, May 18, 2019; Stockyard Bike-A-Thon, Clark School, 5550 Clark Avenue: Janelle Leon, age 3, and Jada Leon, age 22 months, are ready for a ride with their new bicycle helmets.

**ARTS**

**OUTPRINT/INPRINT EVENTS:** Riverview Welcome Center project partners will host a series of events designed to engage with and photograph members of the Ohio City community for a public art project. The project will include large scale portraits of community members. Events are on June 13, 14, 15 and 16 from Noon to 6 p.m. at Riverview Welcome Center, 1701 W. 25<sup>th</sup>.

**CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT EDUCATIONAL TRAVELING FARM WITH PONY RIDES:** Halloran Park Friday June 14 from 2-3:30 p.m. Rain date: Friday, June 21, 2-3:30 p.m.

**DANCING WHEELS COMPANY,** World Center for Integrated Dance Arts Access, will perform dance and commentary to music that demonstrates the power and

beauty of integrated dancers in wheel chairs to a young audience. After the performance children will be invited to create a craft related to the theme of the stories. Friday June 28, 1-3 p.m. Rain Date: Friday 19, 1-3:30 p.m.

**CLEVELAND HISTORY**

**HIDDEN HISTORY REVEALED:** Veterans Memorial Bridge and Subway Tours, Saturday, June 22, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Free, self-guided tour allows visitors to experience the original streetcar station and tracks, as well as unique views of the Cuyahoga River, Lake Erie and downtown Cleveland. Also included in the exhibit are exhibits and films depicting the bridge's history. The main entrance for the Veterans Memorial Bridge and Subway Station tour is at the Department of Public Works Garage, 2433 Superior Viaduct, at the northeast corner of the West 25th Street and Detroit Avenue.

**COMMUNITY**

**FIRST DISTRICT POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING:** Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at St. Ignatius Elementary School Cafeteria, 10205 Lorain Avenue.

**SECOND DISTRICT POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING:** Tuesday, June 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Applewood Centers, 3518 W. 25<sup>th</sup> (In the gym on Daisey.)

**COMMUNITY ACTION**

**UNDESIGN THE RED LINE:** an interactive exhibit that connects discriminatory

**Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality urges involvement in state budget process**

The state budget has an impact on all of us. It provides funding for public education, for building and repairing roads and bridges, health coverage to low-income families, and assistance to local governments which can be used for public safety and much more. Thus, it is important that individuals get involved in the process.

This budget season Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE) has chosen to focus its efforts on several aspects of the state budget that we feel are important and would like to see implemented.

NOBLE would like to see an expansion

of publicly funded child care eligibility from 130% of the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) (\$27,000 for a family of three) to 200% of the FPL, making eligibility available to more Ohio Families.

NOBLE supports increased funding for senior services. Funding for senior services has experienced sharp decline over the years. These services provide support for Ohioans age 60 and older who live at home but need help as they age with basics like home-delivered meals, transportation and personal care. Cuts to senior services make it hard for elderly Ohioans to care for themselves and jeopardizes their safety.

NOBLE supports increased funding for adult protective services. These services prevent physical, emotional and financial harm to vulnerable seniors. The Ohio Family Violence Prevention Project estimates that each year in Ohio 105,000 older adults (over 60) are abused or neglected. There is much need in the state for at least one caseworker in each county dedicated to making sure that seniors are safe, well cared for, and not living in fear or abuse. Current funding levels do not allow for this.

NOBLE supports the protection of the Medicaid Expansion program in Ohio. **continued on page 4**

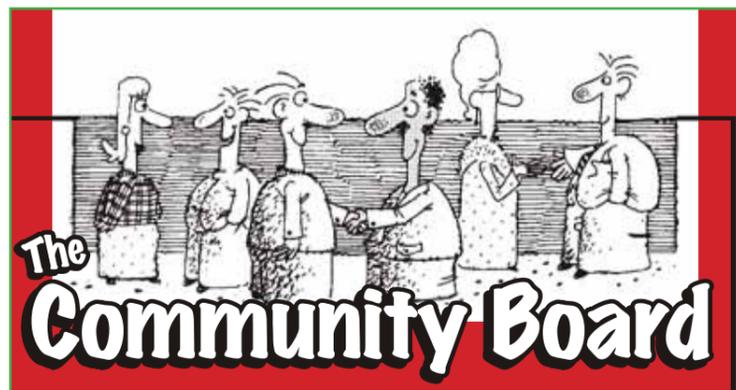
**Repairs continue at Denison Avenue UCC as the church receives extension from Cleveland Housing Court**

On May 21<sup>st</sup> Denison Avenue United Church of Christ Pastor Nozomi Ikuta announced via Facebook that Cleveland Housing Court has given the church's congregation "a little more time to finish repairs." The church, featured in a photo in the May issue of the *Plain Press*, is continuing work restoring the exterior of the building. Pastor Nozomi Ikuta says a fundraising website

is being set up to help the church restore its facility and thanked the many supporters who are helping the congregation in this trying time.

Denison Avenue United Church of Christ is located at 9900 Denison Avenue. Its ministries include outreach services such as a monthly food pantry, general outreach with food and clothing assistance, and a fellowship lunch every Sunday after

the service. The church also hosts a weekly bible study and a youth ministry that serves over 50 youth on a weekly basis. The church's website at [www.denison.org](http://www.denison.org) offers more information on the congregation's mission and goals and also offers an opportunity to make a donation toward the restoration of the building.



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.

federal policies and practices from the 1930s to political and social issues of today is on display until June 28<sup>th</sup> at Aspen Place, 6016 Lorain Avenue.

**FULLY FUND THE PUBLIC DEFENERS OFFICE:** Community Organizations are needed to endorse the Ohio House version of the State Budget which fully funds the public defenders' office. Support the constitutional right to representation at trial and save taxpayers money because having representation by a public defender should reduce prison time. To add your organization to the list of endorsers call Rich May at 216-924-9419.

**CRAFTS**

**LEARN TO SEW** by hand and machine. Saturdays 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. from June 15 thru July 20<sup>th</sup> at the Lorain Branch Library, 8216 Lorain Avenue. Free. Ask for Cosmic Bobbins.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**NATIVE PLANTS:** Take up some of your turf grass and install a native plant garden. Seeds are available at: [www.cuyahogawcd.org/programs/native-seed-sale](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/programs/native-seed-sale)

**RAIN BARRELS:** Visit the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District website to learn about upcoming Rain Barrel workshops: [www.cuyahogawcd.org/programs/rain-barrels](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/programs/rain-barrels)

**RAIN GARDENS:** Download the Rain Garden manual from the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District website at: [www.cuyahogawcd.org/programs/rain-gardens-native-plants](http://www.cuyahogawcd.org/programs/rain-gardens-native-plants), or call 215-524-6580 to have one mailed to you.

**FESTIVALS**

**CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART'S PARADE THE CIRCLE:** Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, Noon. Wade Oval. Free kids activities, live music, food and beverages, beer and wine garden.

**LA SAGRADA FAMILIA PARISH LATIN AMERICAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL,** 7719 Detroit Avenue: Live salsa music, Latin American food, games, beer garden, pig roast, cultural dance and more. Saturday, June 22, 2 p.m. till Midnight; Sunday June 23, Noon till 11 p.m.

**KUPALA UKRAINIAN FEST:** Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> (noon to 11:00 p.m.) and Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> (noon to 8:00 p.m.) The Ukrainian Museum-Archives (UMA) and the Cleveland Maidan Association

(CMA) will host the 2nd Annual Kupala Ukrainian Fest at 1202 Kenilworth Avenue across from Lincoln Park in the heart of Cleveland's Tremont. This will be part of Cleveland History Days celebration and will serve as the closing ceremony. **EDGEWATER STREET FEST:** Sunday, June 30, Noon – 7 p.m. on Clifton Boulevard. Family friendly festival with live music, art workshops, local vendors and more.

**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](http://www.dro.org) intake department and refer to our new resource, [Medicaid: Appeals Overview](http://www.dro.org).

**HOMELESS RESOURCES STREET CARD AVAILABLE ONLINE:** The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless's Street Card is now available online at: [www.helpinthecl.org](http://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.

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**THE GATHERING PLACE** is a caring community that supports, educates and empowers individuals and families currently coping with the impact of cancer in their lives through programs and services provided free of charge. The Gathering Place East, 23300 Commerce Park, Beachwood, OH. The Gathering Place West, 24523 Center Ridge Rd, Westlake, OH. For more information call 216-595-9546 or visit [www.touchedbycaner.org](http://www.touchedbycaner.org).

**YOUTH**

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL:** Applications are open for youths ages 14-24 living in the Detroit Shoreway, Cudell and Edgewater neighborhoods to apply to serve on a Youth Leadership Council created through MyCom so youth can have a voice in the creation of activities in their communities All youth serving on the Council will be given a \$500 stipend. Application Deadline: June 15, 2019. For more information contact Jeff Ramsey at [dramsey@dscdo.org](mailto:dramsey@dscdo.org) or call 216-961-4242 ext. 242.

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**TWDC responds to CMSD decision to close Tremont Montessori**

**An open letter to Cleveland Metropolitan School District Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon:**

The Friends of Tremont Montessori, Tremont West Development Corporation and the Tremont community have fought to save Tremont Montessori as a neighborhood asset numerous times. In 2010, Friends of Tremont Montessori (FOTM) began as a group dedicated to keeping a school in the central Tremont neighborhood. Residents and neighbors rallied against the proposed school closing and continued on to support improvements in the school. FOTM has been critical in setting the direction of the school and has been involved in the District's master planning process and supportive of multiple levies and school reform initiatives. In 2014-15 FOTM approached local foundations, with support from CMSD administration, to begin a strategic planning process to look at how to transition the school from a public school with Montessori influenced curriculum to a high performing fully accredited public Montessori. This process also dealt with the facility needs. Throughout this process, the goal of FOTM has been to support CMSD while incrementally moving towards a fully accredited Montessori school that would provide high quality educational outcomes for all students. We were pleased to take part in the hiring process that brought the first Montessori certified educator as Principal to the school. Since that time a number of initiatives have taken place to continue to further the mission of the school including creating a strong partnership with Stonebrook Montessori (a CMSD sponsored charter). This is an indication of the success of the partnership between the Tremont community, FOTM and CMSD.

is using the percentage of children from the neighborhood (17%) as part of the rationale. However, it is important to note that this does not tell the whole story. Tremont is a growing community of young families. The most recent census estimate showed a growth of over 50% in the under 5 population and a growth of over 35% in the 25-34 age group. This data indicates that more families are choosing to call Tremont home and making decisions based on schools. Tremont Montessori has attracted these families to the pre-K program. Unfortunately, due to the age of the building, lack of continued commitment to investing in the needs of the Montessori program, and uneven leadership over the past few years, the families are not being retained. Additionally, due to our central location, Tremont Montessori has always attracted students from the East side with the second largest population outside of Tremont coming from the Central neighborhood. Our central location, Montessori education and safe, supportive, diverse community has been a draw. This strengthens the rationale for a new construction high quality public Montessori school in Tremont.

The Tremont community is urging CMSD to reconsider its position. We continue to want to partner with CMSD to ensure a high quality fully accredited public Montessori becomes reality in the Tremont neighborhood. We do not feel the decision to close is in the best interests of the current students, the future students, the neighborhood or CMSD. Together, we can build a school that our community, the City of Cleveland and CMSD can be proud of.

**Cory Riordan**  
Tremont West Development Corporation Executive Director

**LETTER**

The decision to relocate Tremont Montessori is a break in the trust created with the community and CMSD leadership. Hours and hours of planning, years of hard work by community members and Tremont Montessori staff and families, and the leadership of Friends of Tremont Montessori seemingly means very little to CMSD. It is unfortunate that a community that has been supportive of CMSD and worked collaboratively to meet CMSD goals, finds out on [cleveland.com](http://cleveland.com) about the decision. This is an indication that the people that spent considerable time, talent and treasure to assist Tremont Montessori toward its goal of becoming a high-quality public Montessori school, are being discarded because of short-sighted decision making.

We understand that due to financial constraints, difficult decisions were necessary. We also understand that CMSD



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSEPH GALLAGHER SCHOOL

The Gallagher Chess Team members won numerous awards this school year including 1st Place in the Ohio Middle School State Championship. Members of the team include: (L-R): Oma Dahal, Reyosh Biswakarma, Sunita Magar, Coach Amit Ghose, Team Captain Akshar Patel, Nouh Shaikh and Binita Biswa. Not shown: Arpan Rai, Ritu Limbu, Joshua Hargett and Gaebrial Kane.

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**Halloran Park Summer 2019 Children's Entertainment Schedule**  
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Friday June 14 - 2019 2:00 – 3:30 PM **Farm in the City: Educational Traveling Farm with Pony Rides!** Rain Date Friday June 21, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Friday June 28 – 2 PM to 3:00 PM **Dancing Wheels Company, World Center For Integrated Dance Arts;** perform dance and commentary to music that demonstrates the power and beauty of integrated dancers in wheel chairs to a young audience; After the performance children will be invited to create a craft related to the theme of the stories.  
 Rain Date: Friday July 19, 1PM to 3:30 PM

Friday July 12 - 2PM to 3:30 PM **Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers**  
 Positive stories & interactive songs that creates a fun & educational vehicle for children to receive information, learn & be entertained. After the performance children will be invited to create a craft related to the theme of the stories.  
 Rain Date: Friday July 26, 2:00 3:30 PM

Friday August 2 - 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM **Out Door Open Bubble Palooza with Dr. U.R. Awesome;** Dr. U R. Awesome a 6x Guinness World Records Winner will demonstrate awesome bubbles, up to 40 children will be given bubble buckets to create an Atmospheric Bubble Palooza  
 Rain Date: Friday, August 9, 2-3 PM

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## Cogswell Hall Executive Director Diana Cyganovich to retire

Cogswell Hall Executive Director Diana Cyganovich will retire on June 30<sup>th</sup> after nearly four decades of advocating with and for low-income adults, domestic-violence victims, young people and families.

As executive director of Cogswell Hall at 7200 Franklin Boulevard since 2002,

“Diana brought remarkable skills with her to Cogswell Hall,” said Dr. Candi Clouse, Cogswell’s board president from 2009-2012 and now director of Cleveland State University’s Center for Community Planning and Development. “In addition to her law and social work background, she was a strong executive with a knack



PHOTO COURTESY OF COGSWELL HALL

**Cogswell Hall Executive Director Diana Cyganovich is set to retire.**

Cyganovich led years of expansion and professionalization at the residence for low-income people with disabling conditions. Before that, she practiced law, led Templum (now part of the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center) and worked in other positions serving victims of rape and abuse.

Cogswell Hall is completing an overall strategic planning process that will perform the search to replace Cyganovich, said William J. Culbertson, president of its Board of Directors. In 2018, Cyganovich told the board of her retirement plans to aid the broader planning process, Culbertson said.

Under Cyganovich’s leadership, Cogswell Hall completed a transition from an older, more informal way of operating into a standard nonprofit organization with an executive and other full and part-time professional and administrative staff. She oversaw fundraising for and completion of an \$8 million renovation and expansion. This increased capacity from 30 women housed in convent-style rooms with common bathrooms to 41 women and men in larger single rooms with private bathrooms. It added common spaces for residents and more supportive services.

for the business side of running a nonprofit. She understood the residents, their needs and the complex journeys that brought them to Cogswell Hall. At the same time, she has a thorough command of budgets, funding sources, investments, contracts, human resources, client programs – really, everything you need to keep an organization healthy. Cogswell Hall would not have accomplished its impressive renovation and expansion at all, let alone with such strength and stability, without the multi-skilled leadership we received from Diana.”

“She was clearly the right person for the job,” said Hilary Schichler, board president from 2004 to 2008. “When she came to us, we were facing some hard decisions concerning the organization and the future of the building. We had had a live-in manager who had left. We had a building that needed a lot of mechanical work that could not easily be done with the population there. The organization really needed to make some decisions – were we married to that building or not? If not, what would the future be? We even considered closing the building, selling it and giving out scholarships.”

“Clearly, through her leadership and dedication, from answering calls in the middle of the night when the fire alarm went off, to meeting with bank and foundation officials, to pulling together the whole tax credit project – she was involved in every aspect. What I am most proud of is the whole process of saving the organization and saving the building, creatively adapting the building to current needs, with no debt. That’s just amazing to me. She shepherded that whole process. It really was a group effort, and we were strategic. But we were just a volunteer board. Without the strong staff work she provided, we never would have gotten to where we need to be.”

“Although the director frequently gets all the credit for the accomplishments, all the growth and expansion at Cogswell Hall was truly a collective effort,” Cyganovich said. “We would never have been successful without the contributions of staff, board, community volunteers, donors, friends, partners, and residents. I thank all who worked with me in making these last seventeen years an amazing journey.”

## NOBLE

continued from page 2

Medicaid Expansion provides health insurance for 600,000+ Ohioans including individuals with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level (\$17,236 per year). In 2017, lawmakers through the state budget proposed a freeze on Medicaid Expansion enrollment, had it not been for Governor Kasich’s veto this would have resulted in 500,000 Ohioans losing health insurance in the first 18 months of the freeze. We also oppose including burdensome work requirements, premiums and co-payments in order to get Medicaid health services.

NOBLE supports strengthening of the State of Ohio Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by making it refundable. The EITC is a tax credit targeted at working people who have low to moderate incomes, particularly those with children. Its federal counterpart has been effective at lifting families out of poverty. If made refundable the state EITC would put money into the pockets of low-income working people.

NOBLE understands that it takes financial resources to implement the above priorities and thus we suggest generating revenue by supporting the

Houses amended version of the state budget (House Bill 166). This bill tightens the limited liability loophole, lowering the amount companies who claim business income deductions can write off from state income taxes from \$1250,000 to \$100,000. This would generate hundreds of millions of dollars for the state. NOBLE supports this effort and would like to see the deduction amount even lower.

The state budget must be signed into law by June 30, 2019. Thus, we urge you to act fast! It is important that you make your voices heard in the budget process. If any of the above issues are of importance to you, NOBLE suggests you contact key state legislators in the House and Senate including : Representative Scot Oelslager (District 48) at 614-752-2438 or [rep48@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep48@ohiohouse.gov); Representative Jack Cera (District 96) at 614-466-3735 or [rep96@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep96@ohiohouse.gov); Senator Matt Dolan (District 24) at 614-466-8056 or [Dolan@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:Dolan@ohiosenate.gov); and Senator Vernon Sykes (District 28) at 614-466-7041 or [Sykes@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:Sykes@ohiosenate.gov).

NOBLE will hold its next meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 3500 Lorain Avenue at 5:30 p.m. Join us to ensure your voice is heard in the state budget process.

## Art House displays work of area students at Urban Bright exhibition

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Art House hosted a public exhibition of the artistic accomplishments of students who participated in the Art House Urban Bright Arts-in-Education programs. Art House supporters filled Art House at 3119 Denison to view the exhibit of the student work and listen to artists share their experiences of working with students in local schools.

The Art House Urban Bright Arts-In-Education program offers a residency to local professional artists to work with students in area schools. Students receive instruction in the arts from a professional artist while working on various art projects with the artist.

The work on display at the Urban Bright exhibit showed student art in a wide range of mediums.

John Marshall High School students

made ceramic bowls using clay with the guidance of Art House Artist in Residence Gina Washington.

A brightly colored Under the Sea Collage represented the work of Tremont Montessori kindergarten students working with artist Meri Ruble.

Third and Eighth Grade students at Denison Elementary working with artist Melissa Daubert learned to use fiber from the outer husks of a coconut called coir and combine it with wire to form a variety of sculptures exhibited in a Coir Sculpture Series.

Artist Claudio Orso spoke of trying to create amazing memories for students he worked with at Old Brooklyn Community Elementary Constellation School. Those memories included making art using a giant truck tire he found at Edge-

water Beach and creating self-portraits using black ink on paper following the lines from a plexiglass mirror.

Artist Angelica Pozo described working with fifth to eighth grade students at Stockyard Community Constellation School on W. 65<sup>th</sup> to create tiles that will be placed on pillars outside the school. Pozo says the completed project will feature 238 eight-by-eight-inch tiles and 168 four-inch-by-eight-inch tiles. The individual tiles will feature stockyard animals such as cows, pigs, goats and sheep. The tiles will be mounted on twelve by twelve foot and eighteen-by-eighteen-foot pillars four to six feet in height designed by architect John Rokakis, said Pozo. Pozo plans a workshop for Stockyard Community teachers to experience creating tiles for the project..



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, May 3, 2019; Urban Bright Exhibition, Art House, 3119 Denison Avenue: The exhibit features the work of Cleveland students working with artists from Art House. John Marshall High School students created these ceramic bowls from clay under the direction of Artist Gina Washington.

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*Congratulations!*

The family and staff of Walter Martens & Sons Funeral Home wish to announce that Office Manager, Victoria Shea, has graduated from Cleveland State University on May 11, 2019.

Victoria held a 3.0 GPA through most of her time at Cleveland State and doubled majored in Journalism and Promotional Communication and Film, TV and Interactive Media.

For graduation, Victoria wore cords and stoles for the National Society of Leadership and Success which she was inducted into in 2016 and Phi Alpha Delta, a pre-law fraternity where she held the position of membership chair and is now the alumni chair.

Her plan is to begin her two-year apprenticeship for her Ohio Funeral Director’s license. Once completed, she plans on heading back to Cleveland State University, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law to obtain her JD.

Please join our family and staff, as well as her parents and family in congratulating Victoria on this accomplishment.



## Pilot program calls for investments to establish Clark Fulton as a mixed income neighborhood

by Chuck Hoven

Metro West Managing Director Ricardo León and Metro West Director of Community Engagement Adam Gifford announced at a kickoff meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> that the City of Cleveland has designated the Clark Fulton neighborhood as the target area for a new housing program. The program is called the FHAct50 Target Area Plan. Metro West Community Development Organization said in a press release describing the program that "each affordable housing unit created through FHAct50 must be matched by a market-rate housing unit produced at the same time and within the same neighborhood. The City of Cleveland voluntarily opted into this program and will have access to draw down credits in 2019, 2020, and 2021."

Councilwoman Jasmin Santana says, "As a long-time resident and the new Cleveland City Council representative for Ward 14, I am beyond excited that the Clark-Fulton neighborhood was chosen to receive the FHAct50 funding. The timing is right as the FHAct50 program will align perfectly with the Mayor's Neighborhood Transformation and MetroHealth's Hospital Transformation."

"It's important to me that we develop a community that is inclusive, provides much needed affordable housing and that the residents are being engaged throughout the entire process. I want to ensure their voice and vision of community is reflected in the development plans for the neighborhood."

"Currently my office is collaborating with stakeholders in particular City of Cleveland, MetroWest CDO, Metro-Health and residents to create a shared vision, a plan that will reflect the neighborhoods needs and be equitable for all."

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency created the FHAct 50 Target Area Plan program to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the federal Fair Housing Act. The federal Fair Housing Act was passed by Congress fifty years ago to address housing discrimination practices by banks and lending institutions, real estate companies and landlords that led to increased racial and ethnic segregation and lack of investment in low income neighborhoods.

The three-year FHAct 50 Target Area pilot program calls for investing federal, state and local funds to create and support mixed-income neighborhoods.

The Clark Fulton neighborhood which stretches from W. 25<sup>th</sup> to W. 44<sup>th</sup> with most of the neighborhood lying South of I-90 except for the Queen, Barber, Vega area just north of I-90 along W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street. The southern boundary is Woodbridge from W. 25<sup>th</sup> to Fulton and then south on Fulton to Hodgson Avenue, and from Hodgson to W. 44<sup>th</sup>.

Reports from the City of Cleveland Planning Department and Thriving Communities demonstrate the serious needs of the Clark Fulton neighborhood.

The City of Cleveland Planning Department analysis of the Clark Fulton Statistical Planning area, based on the 2010 United States Census, estimates the poverty rate in the neighborhood to be at 38%, the child poverty rate at 52% and the elder poverty rate to be at 24%. All of these poverty rates are above the City of Cleveland averages. The City of Cleveland Planning Department document says there are 2,942 Occupied Housing Units in the neighborhood and 828 vacant housing units. 763 housing

units are listed as owned with a mortgage loan; 427 housing units are listed as owned free and clear; and 1,753 housing units are listed as renter occupied.

A report by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's Thriving Communities Program, titled *Cleveland Neighborhoods by The Numbers: 2015 Cleveland Property Inventory*, says 3.1 to 5% of all structures in the Clark Fulton neighborhood have a D or F grade indicating they are distressed properties. The report says the median sales price for homes in the Clark Fulton neighborhood in 2015 was \$19,861, down 31% from the peak median sales price in the neighborhood of \$65,000 in 2006. The report also notes some public health issues by neighborhood. Elevated lead blood levels for children under age five in the Clark Metro neighborhood by census tract range from 19.9% of children with elevated lead levels to over 34.8% of children with elevated lead levels in different parts of the neighborhood.

At the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting held at City Life center on Trowbridge, Metro West Community Development Organization Managing Director León introduced consultants Aaron Sorrell of Community Planning Insights and Jose Castrejon of MSP Design. The consultants explained that they were under a City of Cleveland imposed end of May deadline to come up with a draft plan for the project. The plan, they said, is needed soon, to allow potential developers to apply for Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax credits for 2019, 2020 and 2021 for housing development in the neighborhood.

To speed the process the consultants provided residents in attendance to fill out a survey that they said would "help determine the needs of the community and its residents in the areas of affordable housing, community and economic development and other areas, such as infrastructure, parks, and cultural amenities."

The consultants also asked residents to comment on and add to existing plans that have been developed for the Clark Fulton neighborhood. They presented outlines of various past plans and their goals. Residents were asked to add comments to the existing plans. Notably missing from the plans presented to comment on were Metro Health Medical Center's plans for redesigning and rebuilding their hospital campus.

Residents offered a number of suggestions to planners including: better marketing of neighborhood businesses; creating more off street parking on Clark Avenue and W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street; creating a fund to clean sidewalks and shovel snow on sidewalks on Clark Avenue; restoring the Clark Avenue bus; regular emptying of trash bins; regular clean-ups and maintenance along Train Avenue; and turning vacant lots over to community groups for gardens or to neighbors for lot expansion.

Residents also called for demolition of vacant houses thereby increasing the level of security to prevent property crimes.

Residents and stakeholders talked

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, May 3, 2019; Urban Bright Exhibition, Art House, 3119 Denison Avenue: The exhibit features the work of Cleveland students working with artists from Art House. Tremont Montessori kindergarten students created this mixed media work titled *Under the Sea Collage* under the direction of Artist Meri Ruble.

about MetroHealth Medical Center playing a role in workforce development and using local businesses as part of their supply chain. They called for investment by the hospital in neighborhood residents. They noted MetroHealth's joint educational program with Lincoln West High School.

There was some discussion about the churches along Scranton and W. 25<sup>th</sup> across from Applewood Center in the Jones Home Historic District as to whether they should be preserved and restored or demolished.

One stakeholder asked for better communication about where a person should go for resources if they are interested in doing development in the neighborhood.

A call was made for the creation of a homeowner assistance program to help assure that longtime homeowners were not pushed out of the neighborhood by forces of development. Other concerns raised included creation of jobs that paid a living wage and better promotion and advertising of education and job training

programs for adults.

Residents called for an end to food deserts and opening of a restaurant with a healthy menu on Clark Avenue, citing too many fast food options and not enough healthy options for dining out.

Residents were also invited to add information to neighborhood maps about what they would like to see in specific locations.

The consultants said following the submission of the draft plan to the City

of Cleveland in late May, the community will participate in a significantly larger version of the plan. Eventually the plan will be submitted to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) for approval. With the approval of the plan, the City of Cleveland will send out Requests for Proposals from developers for physical projects. Projects will be selected with the goal of starting work by the end of this year, the consultants said.

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Saturday, May 4, 2019; Cleveland Public Theatre's STATION HOPE, St. John's Episcopal Church, 2600 Church Avenue: A musical performance titled Journey to Hope included students from Thomas Jefferson Newcomers Academy, students from Smith Elementary School in Delaware, Ohio and professional musicians. The songs were written, composed and directed by Sheela Das. Performed by: Sheela Das, Jack DiAlessandro, Mustafa Khan Mohammad, Min Kahn Mohammad, Bryan Ortiz, Intisar Musa, and Sharon Tate. The compositions were created with funding from the Ohio Arts Council.

**CMSD PLAN**

continued from page one

building; the renovation of Joseph M. Gallagher School; a new or renovated building for Marion Seltzer School; and the relocation of Tremont Montessori School to a modernized facility. CEO Gordon said with the excess of seats in new facilities on the East Side of Cleveland, the Montessori program will most likely move East of the Cuyahoga River. Students from Clark and Walton schools will be housed in a new school to be built on the Clark School site at 5550 Clark Avenue. Gordon said he was unsure as to whether the students would go to Walton during the construc-

tion of the new school or the former H. Barbara Booker School, or both schools. Clark School is one of the CMSD's best performing schools with a C grade on the performance index and an A for Academic Progress within a school year. It is ranked 2nd in academic growth within a school year out the 116 CMSD and charter elementary schools in the school district. Walton School, that is being consolidated with Clark School, has an F grade on both the Performance and Academic Progress indexes. It is ranked 58<sup>th</sup> out of 116 schools in academic growth. While the recommendation is for Denison and Charles A. Mooney to be consolidated into one new school building, a site for the new school has not been selected. While Denison School received a D grade in the State Performance Index, it received an A grade in yearly academic progress of its students. Charles A. Mooney received a D grade in both categories. Gordon said the current site of Denison school is cramped and Charles A. Mooney is near other schools in Old Brooklyn. Gordon said CMSD would like to find a site for the consolidated school, north of the bridge over Brookside Park, but the school district has not yet identified a suitable site and does own property south of the bridge. CEO Gordon said Joseph Gallagher School at W. 65<sup>th</sup> and Franklin has been

attracting a number of new students and serves many English language learners. The recommendation is that the school receive a full renovation. He said the opening of the new West Side High School should create capacity for swing space during construction. (CMSD plans to move students from Garrett Morgan to the new high school – freeing up space in that building). Marion B. Seltzer, 1498 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, is in a larger, older building and is at capacity in terms of its student population. Gordon says the recommendation is for reconstruction to provide a new facility. Other changes called for in the CMSD recommendations include the consolidation of Kenneth Clement and Valley View Boys Leadership Academies; the consolidation of Dike School of the Arts and Bolton; and the provision of a new building for the Douglas MacArthur Girls Leadership Academy. The plan notes that the four schools being closed – Willow, Iowa-Maple, Michael R. White and Case – serve a total of about 900 students. The five academic programs, that are being moved or consolidated into existing modernized buildings, serve a total of 1,500 students. These are: Tremont Montessori; the consolidation of Kenneth Clement and Valley View Boys Leadership Academies; and the consolidation

**Green Party of Northeastern Ohio hosts community meeting in Ohio City**

by Bruce Checefsky

David Ellison believes the Green Party provides an opportunity to represent the best hope for America's future. "As you may not know, the Green Party is a value-based political party. We are an ecology party that is fundamentally oriented around issues of our environment and for the defense of the ecosystem on earth," he said opening the Green Party of Cuyahoga County hosted community meeting at Franklin Circle Church on April 30th. "In addition, we value social justice and non-violence, believing that if we can't be fair and just to one another and find non-violent means to resolve our conflicts that we will not be able to preserve our ability to exist with other life forms with which we share the planet." Mary and David Szamborski moderated the discussion with residents from Ohio City, Tremont, Glenville, Gordon Square and other neighborhoods. Recent property tax assessments, rapid new housing construction, diminishing parking for residents, increase violence and theft, and lackadaisical involvement on the part of city officials when it comes to urban planning topped their list of issues. "Our city council members, board of zoning and city planners are just not listening to us," said David Szamborski. "Do we have to help them run the government the way its should be? We trusted them but they're just not doing the job." Feedback was collected from the group of about 30 attendees, in the hopes that a ground swell of concern, followed by constructive and useable

solutions, would assist city officials in dealing with a myriad of social and economic problems, and possibly offer steps towards healing the divided community. A citywide referendum of focused ideas could potentially help city planners to review policies currently in place to assist and protect residents from predatory practices and unwanted real estate development, according to Szamborski. Two large easel pads were positioned on either side of the room near where the moderators spoke. Several note takers with black markers jotted down ideas as quickly as they could. They had a hard time keeping up with comments coming from the crowd of mainly retired and senior citizens. "This is a free form sharing of ideas," reminded Mary Szamborski. "We're not going to give any feedback. Whatever you say is your thoughts and concerns." Zoning, affordable housing, and demolition of historical buildings were offered as topics to open the discussion. Every idea is a great idea, the Szamborski's encouraged. "I'm concerned about drunk drivers after the bars close," remarked Ellison. Several people agreed with him. The conversation quickly shifted to racial equity. "We have to look at the starting point of Cleveland which is built around structural racism," said Mike Fiala, a resident of the near west side. "The city has been colonized and re-colonized for decades. We need racial equity in real estate and urban development. While there is some racial diversity coming into the neighborhood-

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**SENIOR DAY**

continued from page one

ed a wealth of information about each senior citizen.

Gary Horvath, nominated by Ward 3 Councilman Kerry McCormack, is a life-long Cleveland resident. The biography notes Horvath's involvement throughout his life with boxing as a golden glove boxer, a coach, mentor and trainer. Horvath spends much of his time at the I'll Make Them Pay Old Angle Boxing Gym on W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street. "He connects with his community through his unselfish giving of his time and resources to the sport of boxing and the gym that he loves," says the statement in the program. The program says the gym services over 100 children, teenagers and adults each month. Gary is quoted as saying that, through boxing, kids learn how to be "strong mentally, physically and spiritually." The biography also describes Horvath's involvement in the neighborhood block club in his Ohio City neighborhood and his membership in St. Patrick's Parish on Bridge Avenue.

Barbara Rogers was nominated by Ward 11 Councilwoman Dona Brady. The program profile says she was born on the West Side of Cleveland and attended St. Procop grade school and St. Procop all girls high school. Rogers serves as a precinct committee person in Ward 11, participates in the First Police District Safety meetings, volunteers at the Rocky River Nature Center, and is a member of the Green Team where she helps with gardening and landscaping. Rogers has been a member of St. Vincent De Paul Parish for over fifty years.

Julia Smith was nominated by Ward 14 Councilwoman Jasmin Santana. Smith came to Cleveland soon after graduating from a high school in Georgia at age 16 according to the program. Smith, now retired from a career that included being employed at H.H. Frisch Knitting Mills and Dalton Industries, is enjoying taking courses at Cuyahoga Community College. Smith is also involved as an active member of Scranton Road Bible Church. She has served as acting Treasurer of her apartment's Local Advisory Council, executive of the local Democratic Club and as a Ward 14 Precinct Committee Mediator.

Dolores Watson was nominated by Ward 14 Councilman Matt Zone. Watson, according to the program, has lived in the EcoVillage neighborhood for ten years. Watson worked for a number of area nonprofit organizations and labor unions over the years including: Planned Parenthood of Greater Cleveland, Earth Day Coalition, and District nine to Five Service Employees International Union. Watson is an active member of the Greater Cleveland Beekeeping Association, involved with the Lending Library, and an active member of the Eco-Village Neighbors Block Club. Watson also participates in activities of the Westside Village Group, a group of seniors that work together to help each other age in place. Watson has served on the board and committees of Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland and has participated in Sustainable Cleveland 2019 Initiative's Vital Neighborhoods Working Group. Watson volunteers her time working with West Side Tree Stew-

ards, a group helping to reforest the City of Cleveland.

John Lavelle was nominated by Ward 16 Councilman Brian Kazy. Lavelle, born in County Mayo, Ireland, moved to Cleveland in 1976. He is a regular marcher in the St. Patrick's Day parade, walking with the Cleveland Pioneer's Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred heart. According to the program, he serves as the group's Vice President and was honored by the group as Pioneer of the Year in 2009. Lavelle, now retired, worked in landscaping, drove a Senior Citizen's Bus for South Euclid Tri-City Office on Aging and worked in the maintenance department of both Central National Bank and Key Bank. Lavelle volunteers doing catering with the West Side Irish American Club helping with decorating for major events. He has served on the board of trustees for the West Side Irish American Club and the club named him Man of the Year in 2001. Lavelle is a member of the St. Vincent De Paul Society which works to assist neighbors in need of food or help with utility bill payments. Lavelle is a founding member of his local block watch and is involved with the Memorial Banners project, an effort to line Jefferson Park with American flags to honor service men and women. Lavelle also is known for helping his neighbors as a handyman and grass cutter.

Editor's Note: The above descriptions of the senior citizens honored by the City of Cleveland at its Senior Day celebration are summaries of profiles in the City of Cleveland's program for Senior Day provided by the Department of Aging.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR  
Saturday, May 18, 2019; Max Hayes High School Classic Car Show, 2211 W. 65<sup>th</sup> Street: Wayne Zerucha with a 1937 Ford Coupe restored by his brother Stanley Zerucha. Wayne Zerucha says they have displayed the car in the Max Hayes Classic Car Show for the past ten years.

**TWDC MEMBERSHIP**

continued from page one

include as many as 260 new apartments with 75,000 square feet of retail space and 560 underground parking spaces.

In 2016, Sustainable Community Associates converted Tremont's historic Wagner Avenue Building built in 1895 into 12,000 sq. ft. of office space and 59 one-bedroom apartments. The 1.75-acre property includes parking for tenants, with rents from \$900 - \$1500 month for apartments 650 to 1250 square feet. The Tappan project across the street from the Wagner Avenue Building, scheduled to break ground this summer, will erect a four-story building that will include 95 apartments and a first-floor bakery.

Dozens of other real estate projects in Tremont and Ohio City are currently in development.

Given the opportunity to increase density population in Tremont, real estate investors and developers' eager for new projects could add as many as 150 to 190 new apartments and condominiums to the Montessori School site depending on size while increasing the commercial footprint with newly constructed retail space.

Long-time Tremont resident and artist Christopher Pekoc believes TWDC acts in the best interest of its constituents, at least most of the time.

"They do wonderful work. They're

honest and not all Cleveland CDC's are that way. We're truly lucky to have TWDC as our CDC," he said. "But I would like to see them take a closer look at the architecture that gets approved for development. Sometimes, it's just abysmal."

"I'm very impressed with the block clubs and attendance at the meetings," said Robert Heiss, a Tremont resident new to the neighborhood. "People are encouraged to speak up and that's really great."

"I have a real concern about Tremont West Development not really attending to the needs of long-term residents, especially when it comes to property tax assessments. They're not as aggressive as they should be," said a woman from the Lincoln Heights Block Club that wished to remain anonymous.

"We were recently dropped by TWDC," she said referring to a decision last April by the board of directors at TWDC to sever ties with the longstanding block club over voting issues and inclusive rights for non-property owners. "We continue to have a difference of opinion."

Cynthia Chiplis thinks the neighborhood development corporation keeps the block clubs grounded but she's tired of new construction projects popping up everywhere. "It's getting out of hand and overgrown. Over developed and we're over taxed. Where are the property tax rebates for long-time residents? What tax relief do we have?"

"I think we need more trash containers around the neighborhood," said Randi Zubin an organizer for the Cuyahoga RiverSweep cleanups. "The trash containers are always filled. No one empties them. Where's the enforcement for trash pickup?"

"As an artist for community projects, it's been great to be able to use Tremont West as a fiscal agent to get grants," said community activist and nationally recognized ceramic artist Angelica Pozo. Her public art projects can be seen through-

out Cleveland. "I support their initiative to provide more affordable housing."

"Increasing the population of the neighborhood and providing affordable housing sounds like a good idea except their definition is not very affordable," added Tom Stewart, a Tremont resident for eleven years and homeowner for the last nine years.

"Maybe its affordable for a single young professional but not for a family. Their plan to increase population density, outlined in their 'Corners and Corridors' initiative, doesn't excite me."

Better public transportation options and more frequent bus service to the neighborhood were among a list of needs residents would like TWDC to address in the coming year.

John Zayac, former co-chair of the Duck Island Block Club and principal of the Project Group, a firm specialized in commercial, residential and industrial development, was blown away by the detail and level of commitment of TWDC staff.

"I'd like to see more cross marketing between Tremont, Detroit Shoreway and Ohio City," he suggested. "There's a lot to be said about co-marketing and sharing resources between the various CDC's"

Service workers swept away the empty plates and glasses from tables while the kitchen staff covered and removed what was left of the main dishes. Carafes of white and red wine, and a tall stainless-steel coffee urn remained in place for anyone interested in an after-dinner drink.

Executive Director Cory Riordan introduced a list of speakers including Kate Carden, President of TWDC and Joe Adler, Ad Hoc Nominating Committee Chair.

Voting ballots were collected from across the room while speakers continued.

Dan Imfeld stood near the back with his arms crossed. Imfeld, a prospective Tremont West Board Member, was on the ballot for election. His qualifications to serve on the board of the active com-

munity organization included experience as a Financial Advisor, Certified Public Accountant, homeowner and resident of Tremont.

"I've lived here for a while. I want to give back to this diverse neighborhood and help it to prosper and be a place where people want to continue to live and visit," he said.

When asked about the challenges facing TWDC, he thought about it for a moment before declining to comment.

Riordan read a list of successes for TWDC in the past year including thirteen new businesses, 300 new housing units approved, an overall increase in population with household income above \$40,000, and a reduction in crime. Eight new properties were purchased for their Housing Inclusion Plan to provide affordable and low-income housing options increasing their portfolio to 18 units with the goal of purchasing 10 new units per year.

A roll out of the new TWDC website was presented, followed by Neighborhood Leadership Awards, committee reports, new business and announcements, and election results. Community awards were presented to:

Annual Holiday Food Drive – Metro North Block Club

Sammy Catania Developer of the Year Award – Matt Burgess

Business of the Year – affoGATO Cat Café

Gail Long Lifetime Achievement Award – Merrick House

Community Partner Award – Cleveland Public Library Jefferson Branch

Resident of the Year – Dan Lehman

Following a brief interlude by City

Councilman McCormack, congratulating Riordan for his hard work and dedication with a round of applause, Adler read the list of voting results. Kate Carden, who ran unchallenged, was reelected with 114 votes. The five elected members of the board included Dan Cotter, Jamie Declet, Lynn McLaughlin Murray, Rich Sosenko, and Josh Wright, the only board member not to have served the previous term.

Carden opened the floor for public discussion.

Claude 'Larry' Cornett from West 6<sup>th</sup> Street asked about clean-up plans for the soil contamination at Clark Field. An EPA report on efforts at cleanup had apparently been deleted from the EPA website, according to Cornett.

"I found links to the report have disappeared," he later said. "I'm concerned about the plan for cleanup. I have some expertise in the area. The dirt mounds along the Towpath Trail worry me. Some of the soil associated with Towpath Trail could have come from the contamination under Denison Harvard Bridge. They used to make purified uranium under the Clark Avenue Bridge. I don't know what happened to that soil. I want to make sure the trail is safe."

"I used to be more active but I'm recovering from cancer," he added. "I'm ready to get back into it."

The meeting came to a close with residents filing out the door onto West 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Cornett was about to leave when Riordan handed him a scrap piece of paper with a number written on it.

"Here's the phone number with the Chicago EPA contact," Riordan said then quietly disappeared back into the crowd.

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## How to Pack a Stylish Vacation Wardrobe

by Silk Allen

As I am writing this, the weather is pretty wonky, but vacation season is right around the corner and who wants to spend precious time worrying about what to pack? I can't tell you how many



Silk Allen

### FASHION

times I've over packed a suitcase with almost no room for extra shopping almost because "where there is a will, there is a way"--lol, but nothing is worse than bringing a suitcase full of random mismatch items, forgetting your favorite sandals, or accidentally packing a bathing suit that fit you two seasons ago. To keep any of those unfortunate scenarios from happening, I came up with a quick list of clothing items to bring on vacation.

#### Quick Tips:

**Color Theory:** If you choose items in the same color family, (even with a print) you can mix and match with ease. If you get stuck, just know that black and white looks good with anything, florals, dots and animal print can all be considered as neutral prints and if all else fails- it's ok to take style risks- you are on VACATION!

**Two for One:** Make sure each top goes with at least two other bottoms and pick neutral tone shoes that will go with everything.

**Buy and Try:** If you purchase something new, try it on first so you aren't surprised when you get to your destination and your dress is too small/big, those shorts ride up too much, or body parts start popping out of your swimming suit at inappropriate times!

**Wrap and Roll:** Roll your clothes instead of folding them, and utilize all the space, so your suitcase isn't too heavy. Wear a light jacket/shawl while in route and put a tank top, leggings and socks in your carry-on bag/purse just in case something happens or your luggage is delayed. At least you have something decent to change into while you prepare to go off on somebody about your luggage lol.

#### What to Pack:

**Tops:** Bring 3-5 tops- including a

graphic tee that shows off your personality, a sexy top for girl's night out/date night and something fly for brunch and selfies. Anything else can be a basic tee in black, white or whatever color you like.

**Bottoms:** Wear your favorite jeans while traveling and bring a white pair, a fun print or patterned trouser, a few pairs of shorts and at least one skirt.

**Dresses:** Bring at least two dresses and make one a sundress in a cool light fabric.

**Swimsuits:** If you plan on swimming or visiting the beach while on vacay, bring 2-3 bathing suits with you to change in and out of daily so you can give them time to «spring» back to shape.

**Coverups:** A swim cover up is clutch because it can be worn as a top or a dress, depending on how it's made. Pick one with a cute print and one in a solid color.

**Shoes:** Wear your tennis shoes since they will be the heaviest and pack one pair of sandals, heels and comfortable flats or slide ins.

**Bags:** Choose a large tote bag for the beach, a crossbody bag for shopping and a small clutch for going out.

**Accessories:** Pick either gold or silver and stick to simple pieces- a chain or pendant necklace, two pairs of earrings (hoops/studs/chandeliers) a bracelet and a ring. There is nothing worse than leaving behind your favorite jewelry!

Hopefully these all work for you, but if you have a hard time choosing what to bring or need more one on one help, don't hesitate to email me @ [ladysilk@thehouseoffly.com](mailto:ladysilk@thehouseoffly.com).

## GREEN PARTY

continued from page 6

hood, it's mostly white people moving in." Fiala suggested building alliances to prevent neglect and displacement around places like Glennville where the expansion of University Circle, Inc., for example, has left residents wondering why their political leaders have failed to address their concerns.

Szamborski summarized Fiala's comments by adding, "You're absolutely right. We need to be concerned that [real estate] development maintains a level of diversity."

Zero urban planning and attempts at rezoning were added to the growing list of complaints. Repeated accounts about the Board of Zoning Appeals of approving one variance after another and encouraging development without regard to block club objections raised questions about the current political climate. Political change seems unlikely to affect the existing process, according to one Ohio City resident.

The Green Party of Northeastern Ohio (GPOHIO) disagrees. According to their mission statement, The GPOHIO exists



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, May 11, 2019; RiverSweep, W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street hill, Tremont neighborhood: Victor Kitsis, accompanied by his dog Bella, joins with other Tremont residents to pick up debris in the neighborhood. Tremont West Development Corporation Community Involvement Manager Scott Rosenstein estimated that about 100 Tremont residents volunteered for the Ohio & Erie Canalway Partners' RiverSweep clean-up day.

to construct a new building on public lands left over from foreclosure proceedings.

"In our historic district," Forman said, "we were lucky to have weathered the foreclosure crisis with a loss of only six houses. When a developer came to our block club to seek a zoning variance to install air conditioning units, he did not want to discuss the architectural quality of the new construction. When we asked about the quality of materials, he showed us the cheapest materials possible. When an attorney and a public relations person show up to a block club meeting, not the architect, you know they're not interested in community input."

"We were ground zero for the mortgage collapse. Are we just creating another financial catastrophe?" asked Jared Van Wagenen.

Providing affordable housing and keeping neighborhoods socially and economically diverse builds a stronger community most agreed. Tax abatements that expire after 15 years leave the opportunity for property owners to leap from one tax abated property to the next. Some complain that property jumpers avoid their fair share of responsibility for funding libraries, public transportation, maintenance of public roads and parks, emergency services, and garbage/snow removal while enjoying the benefits of living in the neighborhood.

"There are vacant lots in Ohio City where a land trust can work," said Priscila Rocha, addressing the need for more affordable housing. "That's a discussion that could work."

"Funding sources to the CDC's (Community Development Corporation) dictate specifics results," added Henry Senyak, chairperson of Lincoln Heights Block Club, recently suspended by Tremont West Development Corporation for failing to comply with a 2018 Tremont Strategic Plan calling for a Clarity Commitment to Inclusion.

"The City of Cleveland has contractual relationships with the CDC's. There are a lot of strings attached to the funding which is a problem. They need to go back to the grass roots," he said. "They seek like-minded people on their boards. They need more diversity on their governing boards."

Arcey Harton is disgusted with the way he has been treated by developers and their construction crews in his Glennville neighborhood. "They don't care," he said. "They don't live and work there. They look at me like I'm belligerent when I ask them to move their trucks off my lawn. They've completely ruined it."

For the Green Party of Northeastern Ohio, democracy possesses the necessary resources to restore itself. David Ellison's opening remarks echoed as the room, a makeshift basketball court in the church basement, emptied: "It is our hope this evening, that outside of the inhibitions and prohibitions of government and the non-profit corporations, that we as members of our community can begin to hear what each other have to say and to carry forward our intention of democratic, inclusive discussion and decision making into the future."



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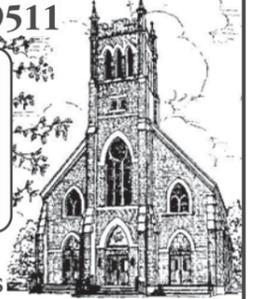
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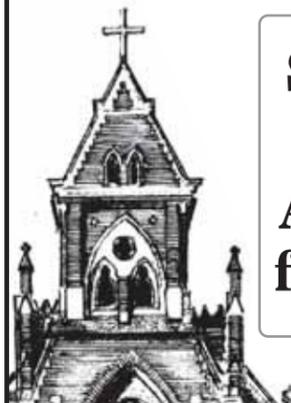


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