



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Friday, June 14, 2019; LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland Ribbon Cutting and Community Open House, 6705 Detroit Avenue: LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland Executive Director Phyllis S. Harris invited members of allied organizations to join with her saying "we make progress by connecting to people."

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

LGBT Community Center opens new facility on Detroit Avenue

by Chuck Hoven

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Community Center of Greater Cleveland celebrated the opening of its new facility at 6705 Detroit Avenue on June 14th with a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house. LGBT Community Center volunteers lined the sidewalk in front of the Center holding colorful flags

while supporters, staff and board members filled the sidewalk around the new building.

The first of a series of speakers, Bob Sferra, President of the Board of Directors of the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, thanked all who contributed to making the new center possible. Sferra specifically thanked individual

members of the board and staff, "an angel donor", and the architectural firm and crew that designed and built the new center. Sferra said the new facility means new programs in a bigger and better location. "We are finally up and out," he said.

Architect David Thal of Weber Murphy and Fox described the new building he designed saying it "absolutely compliments the mission of the center. The community center is for all of you."

Bryan Bowser, former board president of the LGBT Community Center, spoke of the effort and the generous donations that made it possible to open the new center with zero debt and with a \$1 million plus endowment on hand. He urged those present to fill the new space with "your ideas" and "amazing programming." He spoke of the 44-year history of the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland and the many years ahead saying the efforts of those involved in creating this new facility "are gifting to the Greater Cleveland community this space, and all our great energy and mojo." Bowser urged all LGBTQ people here in Cleveland, their friends and allies, and all of the community to continue to support and be involved with the center to "make it a vibrant place."

State Representative Michael

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Friday, June 14, 2019; Farm in the City, Halloran Park, 3550 W. 117th Street: Aleshka Rodriguez, age 2, and Love Rodriguez, age 4, are a little wary as they pose with Party Pals Farm's ball python, Hercules, and Blanca Carrasquillo who is holding him. The Farm in the City event was sponsored by Westown Community Development Corporation, Ward 11 Council Member Dona Brady and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, June 14, 2019; Walkabout Tremont, Professor Avenue at Jefferson Avenue: Volunteers for City Dogs, a program of Cleveland Animal Care and Control, brought dogs from the Cleveland City Kennel that are awaiting adoption to a new home. Volunteer Nina Sobel holds onto Jelly Bean, a dog ready for adoption.

Optometrist, Dr. Daniel Freson, is being forced out of MRN Ltd. owned United Bank Building

by Bruce Checefsky

Dr. Daniel Freson wants to help people.

His optometrist practice has been at the same location on the first floor of the United Bank Building at 2012 W. 25th Street for more than thirty-seven years. With the W. 25th - Ohio City Rapid Station and Greater Cleveland RTA bus service for the 22, 51-A-B_C across the street from his offices, the location is ideal for his clients--many of which depend on public transportation.

But that's about to change. MRN, Ltd, a family owned real estate Development Company based in Cleveland and owner of the United Bank Building, is refusing to renew his lease.

"When I first starting renting, I had several three-year terms. After that, I had five-year terms. I never received a notice that my lease had expired in April 2018. I was placed on month-to-month. When I called about renewing my lease this spring, MRN Ltd told me that I would be

dealt with when they got around to it. Until then, I was on a month-to-month lease."

According to Crain's Cleveland Business journal, MRN Ltd bought the United Bank Building in 2008. Earlier this year, the company announced that it planned to open new apartments called Market District Lofts in the 1925-vintage office building. The suites at United Bank Building include studios and one-bedrooms ranging from 484 to 916 square feet in size. Rents range from \$870 to \$1,375 monthly.

The nine-story, \$1.5 million United Bank Building opened in 1925 as the tallest and largest commercial building on Cleveland's west side. It was one of the last of a series of classical bank buildings constructed in Cleveland during the 1910s and 1920s, a golden age for the city's banking industry.

The Cleveland architecture firm Walker and Weeks designed the

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Riverview Welcome Center opens with a vision of building community

by Colin Murnan

"I noticed that Riverview Towers has a community building," Delores Proctor, part of the Benjamin Rose Institute staff at Riverview Towers in Ohio City, said in a video produced by architect and videographer Clifford Benjamin Herring and shown

at the soft opening of the Riverview Welcome Center on June 19th.

Proctor went on to say, "I know back in the day, they used to do parties. They could rent it out to the residents, AA meetings, NA meetings, bridal showers. You know it was just something that brought the

community together. And the building hasn't been utilized in a while . . . I would love to see something done with that building, you know that's going to help the community. It really would."

Social architect Malaz Elgemiab-continued on page 8



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Friday, June 14, 2019; Walkabout Tremont, Professor Avenue at College Avenue in front of St. John Cantius Catholic Church: Dancers from Steve Popernack Production's Tribe Osteara perform a Tribal Belly Dance.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, June 14, 2019; Undesign the Red Line Interactive Exhibit, Aspen Place, 6016 Lorain Avenue: Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization (DSCDO) Safety and Community Engagement Coordinator Jeremy Taylor and DSCDO Resident Leader Trish Parham greet guests and help interpret the exhibition that connects discriminatory federal policies and practices that originated in the 1930s to political and social issues of today.

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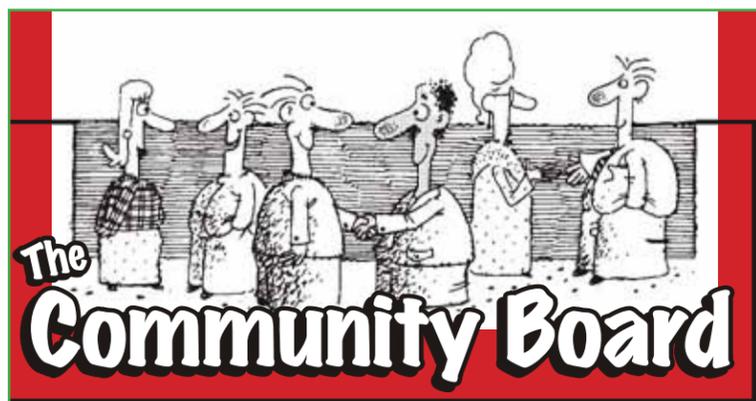
THE CLEVELAND SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL: Shakespeare in the Park with Henry V directed by Kelly Elliott, Saturday, July 6th at 7 p.m. Lincoln Park in the Tremont neighborhood. Free. For more information visit clevelandshakespeare.org. **CLEVELAND PUBLIC THEATRE'S STUDENT ENRICHMENT PROGRAM AT HERMAN PARK,** W. 59th and Herman Avenue, Opening Performance Friday, July 26 at 7 p.m. Free. Rain Location: Cleveland Public Theatre, 6415 Detroit Avenue.

OUTPRINT/INPRINT: What does dignity mean? A project created by JR which features photographs of over 260,000 people from around the world by transforming messages of personal identity into works of public art. Malaz Elgemabby, a Sudanese community architect now living in Cleveland, is working with community members to create a display of photos of local individuals to be part of this international effort. Community members were also given disposable cameras to take photos exploring the meaning of dignity. Photos of members of the community will be displayed on the exterior walls of the new Riverview Welcome Center. Opening will be on August 1, 2019, from Noon to 6 p.m. at Riverview Welcome Center, 1701 W. 25th.

OHIO CITY STAGES: The Cleveland Museum of Art's Ohio City Stages is back for its 7th year this July! Bring a blanket, a neighbor, and some snacks to the Transformer Station lawn from 7:30-9pm on the following dates for world music and dancing in the streets: Wednesday, July 10: Tal National: Combining original music with traditional West African Folk songs. Wednesday, July 24: Garifuna Collective. Blending Garifuna roots music with dance of this Central American musical tradition. Wednesday, July 31: BKO – Contemporary Malian music, combining two of the West African nation's most well-known traditions. Free and open to the public. For more information visit clevelandart.org.

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT FAIRVIEW PARK ICE CREAM SOCIALS: Thursdays July 11, 18, 25th and August 1 at W. 38th just south of Franklin Boulevard from 7-8 p.m. Free ice cream and arts activity.

DANCING WHEELS COMPANY, World Center for Integrated Dance Arts Access,



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.

will perform dance and commentary to music that demonstrates the power and beauty of integrated dancers in wheel chairs. 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: July 19, 1-3:30 p.m. **CLEVELAND ASSOCIATION OF BLACK STORYTELLERS:** Positive stories and interactive songs for children to receive information, learn and be entertained. Children attending the event will be invited to create a craft related to the theme of the stories. Halloran Park, 3550 W. 117th Street, Friday July 12 from 2-3:30 p.m. Rain date: Friday, July 26, 2-3:30 p.m.

SUMMER PARTY IN THE CITY: Saturday, July 27, Noon – 3 p.m. at West Side Alliance Church, W. 38th and Bridge Avenue. Exotic petting zoo, games, food & music. Free fun for all ages.

FREE SUMMER FUN FOR EVERYONE: Menlo Park Academy, 2149 W. 53rd Street on Sunday, July 28 from 1-3 p.m. Ice Cream from Maria's Ice Cream Wagon, bounce castle, face painting, giveaways, tours and more. RSVP to 440-925-6365 or visit MenloParkAcademy.com

OUTDOOR OPEN BUBBLE PALOOZA WITH DR. U.R. AWESOME: Dr. U.R. Awesome, a six-time Guinness World record holder will demonstrate awesome bubbles. Up to 40 children will be given bubble buckets to create an Atmospheric Bubble Palooza. Friday, August 2, from 2-3 p.m. Rain Date: Friday August 9, 2-3 p.m.

COMMUNITY SECOND DISTRICT POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING: Tuesday, July 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Applewood Centers, 3518 W. 25th (In the gym on Daisey.)

COMMUNITY ACTION NEIGHBORHOOD ACHIEVEMENT HUB: Creating Paths from Poverty to Possibility: Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Denison Avenue United Church of Christ, 9900 Denison Avenue. General Outreach – coffee, conversation, referrals, job networking and food and clothing assistance. neighborhoodachievement@gmail.com, 216-584-8339.

CRAFTS LEARN TO SEW by hand and machine. Saturdays 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. thru July 20th at the Lorain Branch Library, 8216 Lorain Avenue. Free. Ask for Cosmic Bobbins.

EDUCATION LITERARY CLEVELAND 2019 INKUBATOR WEEK: July 24-27. Twenty free programs: improve your writing skills, learn new tips and craft techniques, meet editors, publishers, writers and local literary organizations. To register or for more information visit litcleveland.org.

FAMILY OUTINGS FREE MONDAYS AT THE ZOO: On Mondays with the exception of legal holidays, the Zoo (not including The Rain-Forest) is FREE for residents of Cuyahoga County and Hinckley Township. To confirm your residency, bring your driver's license or state I.D. or a current utility bill with your Cuyahoga Cty. or Hinckley Twp. address along with a photo ID. **KIDS RIDE FREE:** RTA offers free summer rides to children age 12 or under until August 10th. Limit three children per fare paying adult.

EMPLOYMENT WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER, 3209 Lorain Avenue, will begin its next Workforce Development Certificate 4-week Program (The Guaranteed Job Offer Program), on July 8th, 9:30-12:00 pm. Childcare and lunch are available. Individual one-on-one employment work available afternoons; 1-4 pm. Please enter through the rear door.

ENVIRONMENT OHIO CITY INC will host a panel and community conversation about city-wide tree initiatives and tree management in Ohio City on Tuesday, July 9 from 6-8

p.m. at the Breen Center 2008 W. 30th.

FESTIVALS 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.

EDGEWATER LIVE: Free concert series with live music, food trucks, volleyball and entertainment at Edgewater Park. Every Thursday (except when it rains) from 4:30 – 9 p.m. thru August 1st.

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL ITALIAN FESTIVAL: Wednesday, July 10 thru Sunday July 14, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 6928 Detroit Avenue. Italian Food, Games, Music, Rides, Casino, and fun for all.

LA PLACITA: July 20, from 1-10 p.m., Clark Avenue at W. 25th.

CPL 150 STREET FESTIVAL: Saturday, July 27, 2019, Main Library, 325 Superior Avenue, Downtown Cleveland. The Cleveland Public Library is shutting down the street and celebrating its 150th Anniversary with an event featuring family friendly fun. Local library branches will be closed and shuttle buses will be provided to patrons to come downtown to join the celebration on this special day.

RECREATION RECESS CLEVELAND: Outdoor games of skill, teamwork, music and barbecues at each free family session. Every Tuesday thru August 6th from 4:30 – 7 p.m. at 7805 Madison Avenue.

SERVICES DO YOU NEED HELP ACCESSING SOCIAL SERVICES AND WORK SUPPORT? Cleveland Public Library staff are trained Benefits Navigators who can help you apply for food assistance, medical assistance and cash assistance.

Library staff can also connect you with free classes and programs for GED/High School Equivalency Prep, Adult Basic Literacy and skills, technology training, and job and career coaching. **NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE & RECREATION CETER EXPANDED SUMMER PROGRAMS:** ACT/ACT Prep, STEM workshops, job readiness assistance, camp, dance, ballet, visual arts, theatre and more. City of Cleveland's 22 recreation centers are providing new free services free to all Cleveland residents. For more information visit: www.clevelandohio.gov/NRRCactivities

SUPPORT GROUPS THE GATHERING PLACE is a caring community that supports, educates and empowers individuals and families currently coping with the impact of cancer. Services provided free of charge. The Gathering Place East, 23300 Commerce Park, Beachwood, OH. The Gathering Place West, 24523 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, OH. For more information call 216-595-9546 or visit www.touchedby-cancer.org.

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 2012 W. 25th STE 500
 Cleveland, OH 44113
 Phone: (216) 621-3060
 email:
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Central Tremont Block Club weighs in on J Roc Development proposal for an apartment development

by Bruce Checefsky

At their June meeting, residents of the Central Tremont Block Club voiced their concerns about J Roc Development's proposal to build a 124-to-140-unit apartment building, called Electric Gardens, on the hillside just east of W. 5th and Literary Road.

Julie Goulis, co-chair of the Central Tremont Block Club, opened the standing room only meeting on June 3rd at the Polish Alliance Hall, with a reading of the block club bylaws.

"One person speaks at a time. Be respectful and do not interrupt anyone while they're speaking. For questions, or comments, we will limit everyone to one minute. Simple majority is needed to pass any issue for our block club."

Following an introduction by board members, people were asked to state their names, where in Tremont they live, and how many years they've been in Tremont including new residents of a few weeks in the neighborhood, to residents who

have lived there for 35 years or more.

Goulis asked Cory Riordan, Executive Director of TWDC, to describe the development process in the Tremont area.

"Developers are asked to check in with Tremont West by the City of Cleveland or councilman. We do an initial review and provide development guidelines. These guidelines include meeting with the block clubs," Riordan responded. "The economic development team formulates its own opinion. Central Tremont is not a legal body in the decision-making process. Neither is Tremont West. The City makes a decision based on our recommendations. We are advisory only."

The remainder of the meeting focused on a proposal by J Roc Development, the residential and mixed-use development company responsible for Tremont Black and Tremont North townhouses, for a project they are calling Electric Gardens. **continued on page 6**



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, June 14, 2019; Bergen Village, W. 5th and Literary Road. Residents of Bergen Village expressed concern that their view of downtown and the industrial valley may be obstructed by a new apartment building proposed by J Roc Development.

Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing (CLASH) reviews new "Lead Safe" legislation introduced by Cleveland City Council

After review of the Cleveland City Council's lead safe legislative proposal, Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing (CLASH) is encouraged by the progress but remains concerned about key missing provisions.

CLASH will continue its petition drive for our updated proposal because CLASH understands there are three phases to an actual law – introduction, review and passage. Until all three are completed, and an effective "lead safe" mandate law with key policy provisions is passed, CLASH will continue to seek public support for its proposal as allowed

under the city charter for a possible vote in March 2020.

"We understand that introduction of legislation does not guarantee that an actual law will be passed," says Jeff Johnson, CLASH member and former Cleveland City Councilman. "We will work with City Council but also remain in the community to secure support for a strong 'lead safe' law."

The proposed ordinance introduced June 3rd 2019 in City Council does demonstrate the significant switch from a reactive approach to a proactive approach. Instead of waiting for a

child to test positive, City Council's bill supports our vision of a transformational, preventative testing system that requires "lead safe" status in all rental units in the city.

However, the City's bill does not require that all rental housing be "lead safe" until March 1, 2023. CLASH believes it must be March 1, 2021. Additionally, the City Council proposal ignores the need to protect children in daycare centers. CLASH believes local lead law must include daycare centers registered under city law and that City leaders must continue to support a

partnership with the state and county to require all city daycare centers to be "lead safe."

As written, the City's legislation also raises constitutional issues because it relies on criminal penalties to punish landlords for their first violation.

Other important policy initiatives that are missing in the City Council proposal are (1) Use of a higher standard for the initial lead test in the rental housing. CLASH believes to properly protect our neighborhood children the initial test must be the "gold standard" lead risk assessment; (2) Inclusion on a Lead Advisory Board of citizens personally impacted by lead poisoning, renters and healthcare professionals; (3) Enhanced

protections for tenants (4) Prohibitions on conflicts of interest between landlords and those hired to complete lead tests; and (5) landlord protections such as the safe harbor if landlords follow the lead safety requirements.

CLASH's attorney, Rebecca Maurer helped to identify these differences, and others, as part of her review of the bill, a full copy of which is attached to this press release.

"For all the differences I have identified in two pieces of legislation, there's one difference that should not matter" says Attorney Maurer, "how this bill gets passed. Whether we get that legislation

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Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing's (CLASH's) referendum is "fighting for all Cleveland's neighborhoods – to 'get the lead out'" -- it is not a distraction

Open letter to the Cleveland Plain Dealer:

This letter is in response to the June 12 Editorial by the Editorial Board of the Plain Dealer and published by cleveland.com and the Plain Dealer titled *Strong Cleveland lead safe legislation still needs funding and to add day cares. CLASH can help by ending distracting referendum drive.*

Per the article: "There's another sour note in the process: CLASH -- the Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing citizens' group that helped spark change with its referendum drive -- has announced that, because it didn't get every single element it wanted in the Cleveland legislation, it would continue to work toward a March 2020 ballot issue, seeking to adopt its package of reforms by referendum."

And per the internet: "Initiative, referendum, and recall are three powers reserved to enable the voters, by petition, to propose or repeal legislation or to remove an elected official from office."

Obviously, it is the group's right to proceed with the referendum considering the fact that they are the "group that helped spark change." As a member of a community affected by lead I see it as every bit as incumbent of the group to press on with the referendum. I am glad they are doing this.

Per the article: "Such a referendum drive -- undercutting Cleveland's current efforts instead of working with City Council and the community Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition to strengthen the city's lead safe proposal and solidify funding -- couldn't be more disruptive and counterproductive. CLASH should

shelve the referendum effort and get to work helping council refine its legislation, see the light on regulating home day cares and raising money in the community to support this important work."

City Council is a body elected by the people, for the people and of the people so it is they who are accountable to the citizens who voted them in and may someday vote them out. The problem with Cleveland today lies in its lack of neighborhood civic associations supported by street block clubs. These organizations proved {in the past} that they could be used to transition neighborhoods once dominated exclusively by

various nationalities. Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing (CLASH) is a group formed around a single issue but is fighting for all of Cleveland's neighborhoods to "get the lead out".

Therefore, it is incumbent of City Council to work with CLASH {and other groups} to determine what legislation to enact. Referendum is a handy tool to use if City Council does not abide by what the people want and with its looming possibility may allow for more negotiations between CLASH, City Council and the other groups. Our children's very futures depend on it.

Joe Bialek
Cleveland

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Wednesday, June 5, 2019; Memorial Service for Toney Lynn Green Sr., Franklin Circle Christian Church, 1688 Fulton Road: Tony Green, Jr. addresses Ohio City neighbors at Franklin Service Church at a Memorial Service for his father Toney Green Sr. In the background is a portrait of Toney Sr., surrounded by his tools.

LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

continued from page one

Skindell (District 13) said the new center would serve not only serve the Cleveland community but all of Northeast, Ohio with great programming, wonderful services and staff. Skindell said State Senator Nickie Antonio (District 23) wanted to attend the ribbon cutting but was tied up in Columbus with the State Senate's deliberations on the Ohio budget.

City of Cleveland Ward 15 Council Representative Matt Zone praised the LGBT Community Center's efforts and advocacy that led such accomplishments as having a domestic partnership registry in Cleveland and bringing the gay games to Cleveland. He noted activists in the neighborhood such as the late Buck Harris and Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization Executive Director Jeff Ramsey, who have worked in support of the center. Zone also spoke of the welcoming message the LGBT Center sent to the LGBTQ community members of greater Cleveland. He noted his late brother, Marty, left Cleveland for New York City because he didn't feel welcome here.

City of Cleveland Ward 3 Councilman Kerry McCormack, who

describes himself as openly gay, shared his story of the fear he felt as a ten-year-old about telling people who he was. McCormack described the new center as "planting a flag in the ground" and saying to young people with fears similar to those he had as a child, "this community cares for you."

LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland Executive Director Phyllis S. Harris asked members of allied organizations to come to her side as she addressed the crowd. She read a poem about how those that have gone before you are part of your fabric. Harris noted the forty-four-year history of the LGBT Community Center at the Gordon Square Arcade, W. 29th Street and Coventry. She called the opening of the new LGBT Community Center the highlight of her career. She acknowledged and offered thanks for "the support of community members, elected officials and people who believed in us over the last 44 years."

Referring to all the allies now standing at her side, Harris talked about their role in making the new center happen. She said, "We make progress by connecting to people."

Harris talked about the Center's

celebration of the Pride event on June 1st in Cleveland and preparing for the opening of the center at the same time. She talked of the opening of the new center during Pride month and the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Stonewall. "Let's think about the significance of all this," she said.

Harris then invited all present to tour the new center.

The tour of the center revealed an open and inviting space with lots of natural light. The Center will have a variety of programs in the new facility including some new programs. The LGBT Community Center's website lgbtcleveland.org notes a number of existing programs and services provided including health and wellness programs, youth and young adult programs, and SAGE a program for adults over 50. The center also offers LGBTQ+ sensitivity training programs and community meeting space. MetroHealth Doctor Doug Vanauken says the Pride Clinic will be moving from McCafferty Health Center to the new LGBT Community Center.

Those touring the facility noted the spacious second floor with a capacity of up to 198 people. The second floor also features an outdoor patio. From the front of the building's east side, former Board President Bryan Bowser noted you can "get a peak" at Lake Erie looking down W. 67th Street.

Architect David Thal showed guests the gender-neutral restroom facility signs that say "THEM."

Guests enjoyed colorful pastries prepared by Board President Bob Sferra's catering company Culinary Occasions.

In Memory: Toney Green

December 21, 1947 - May 15, 2019

Near West Side neighbors remember a special friend to the community

by Sarah Stoner

It's been a wonder, over the last 10 years or so, to see the surge in affection for our dear Ohio City friend from the outside world. But what makes it so special?

Undeniably the dense, concentrated blocks of restaurants, bookstores, breweries and galleries present a treasure trove of experiences for day visitors to our city. That's only part of it though. The people are what makes our neighborhood so extraordinary. The people who own the shops and yoga studios, live in the neighborhood, work in the restaurants, restore the century homes and take care of the roofs, sidewalks and tree lawns.

We lost one of our good ones late this spring. Our dear friend, Toney Green, passed away on May 15, 2019 in his home in Riverview Towers. He was a pillar in this community, as iconic as the bridges that connect Ohio City to the east.

Friends and neighbors gathered with Toney's son and daughter-in-law, Tony Green Jr. and Sylvia Mildred Green, at Franklin Circle Church a few weeks ago to remember him. Every day for the past 20 years, as neighbors and visitors would walk along the sidewalks, Toney Green would greet us with a shout, a wave, a smile, and a bit of neighborhood news ... or a bit of nonsense to make us laugh. You could never predict where you might see him; he worked on many blocks, at all times of day.

Truly the eyes and ears of the neighborhood, he took his job very seriously to keep Ohio City tight and tidy. He ensured our sidewalks were shoveled, our leaves raked and our environment free from those who meant to do harm.

Friends and neighbors gathered with Toney's son and daughter-in-law, Tony Green Jr. and Sylvia Mildred Green, at Franklin Circle Church a few weeks ago to remember him.

Carol Hedderson, one of the pioneers of the vibrant resurgence of Ohio City back in the 1970's, shared, "Toney would always say 'I got your back. You hear me?' And that always made me feel secure. I knew he would be out in the alley making sure we were all okay. He did so much for our neighborhood in so many ways. There is no one who is like him and he will be missed terribly."

Her sentiment is echoed in everyone's memories of him.

The Honorable Mary Rose Oakar, longtime resident, former member of the United States

House of Representatives, and former member of Cleveland City Council, opened the service with a perfect sentiment. Standing in her yellow jacket with her lovely smile she said, "I just miss him."

His son, Tony Jr. shared with us stories of his father that helped to paint a picture with broader context. Like the fact that he had significant talent as a portrait artist. Looking warmly at all of us in the sanctuary, his eyes so like his dad's, he said, "He could draw you. He could replicate a scene from memory, and also put you in a different outfit if you wanted."

In conclusion, Tony shared stories of his father as a hard worker who put his own dreams on hold when, at 17 years old, he became a father to Tony.

Others gathered that afternoon, shared stories of Toney, too. Stories of how he moved according to his own timetable...making it happen, but not necessarily letting you know when that would be. Toney would find treasures that he thought you might like and drop them off in your yard.

How he used our tool sheds as his personal tool library, checking out a tool from one person's yard to get everyone's jobs done-- a ladder here, a wheelbarrow there, a rake, a broom...and store them in whatever yard he happened to be working in. Taking care of all of us.

One of our youngest community members, who had known Toney since he was a toddler and is just now in the double-digits, stood up to share how he remembered that Toney, "He just helped people," he said.

But it wasn't just that he helped everyone with their yard work, or that he was such a hard worker out in the elements from early morning until late afternoon in the blazing heat of August or the coldest days of February. It was that he truly cared about his friends in the neighborhood.

He made every encounter a warm bright spot in the day. You could count on Toney to greet you with his pet name for you...Princess, Darling, Hollywood, Mama or Money--it cracked us up. He and I used to scat rhymes back and forth...though he was much better at it than I. In the last years, we did that less often (maybe because I couldn't keep up!) but still would take a few moments to chat every time our paths crossed.

Alan Fodor, a longtime resident read from the bible Luke 10:25 - 37, The Parable of the Good Samaritan, followed by beautiful thoughts shared by fellow resident Reverend Lisa Hess; an excerpt from her reading follows:

"We gather today to remember a man who will live in our hearts forever. Toney Green gave of himself as did the Samaritan...As Jesus said in the book of Matthew, chapter 7, verse 12: 'Sow whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.' Let the memories of Toney Green linger in our minds to remind us that we should all give to others as generously as Toney Green did."

The gathering of Toney's loved ones, and sharing our thoughts and memories was the beginning of healing for a lot of us, but also a reinforcement of what truly is important not just in our smaller community, but our larger human community.

Small kindnesses matter. Wealth is not defined by money alone. The true value in a life well lived can be illustrated by how we make others feel...protected, loved, taken care of, inspired. The fabric of our communities is strong when we accept each other for who we are and look out for one another.

Rest in peace, Toney. We miss you and remember you forever.

Sarah Stoner lives in a cottage in Ohio City with her husband Jeff, their two cats and dog. She is a writer.



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Children delight as they visit with animals at Farm in the City event at Halloran Park

by Chuck Hoven

The Farm in the City program at Halloran Park on June 14th drew children and their families from throughout the *Plain Press* readership area. The children delighted in petting and feeding Jacob the Alpaca, a Holstein calf named Buckeye, and a small herd of goats.

Maurice Cook, age 5, smiled with

delight as he reached out to touch Jacob, the Alpaca, but quickly drew back as the large animal turned suddenly. Cook was not deterred, he successfully petted both Jacob the Alpaca and Buckeye the Holstein calf before turning his attention to feeding the goats.

Zavier Scott, age 9, devoted some time to picking grass to feed

to Buckeye the Holstein calf.

Children also had a chance to ride a pony. Janice Houston, age 8, took a turn riding a pony named Fudgesicle guided by Party Pals Farm staff member Sara Thomas. Next in line to ride Fudgesicle was Samya Bailey, age 3, whose Mom, Samantha Bailey, walked close by during the ride.

Two brave young sisters Aleshka Rodriguez, age 2, and Love Rodriguez, age 4, posed for a photo with a Ball Python named Hercules which was being held by Blanca Carrasquillo. The sisters came to the

event along with their classmates from Treetop Day Care on Denison Avenue.

Eight members of Cleveland Police bike patrol visited the Farm in the City event and joined with Community Policing Captain Keith Sulzer in posing for a picture with a

small Party Pals Farm piglet named Chip.

The event sponsored by Westown Community Development Corporation, Ward 11 Council Member Dona Brady, and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture featured animals from Party Pals Farm in North Bloomfield, Ohio.

DR. DANIEL FRESON

continued from page one

United Bank Building and nearly 20 other banks throughout the city in the 1910s and 1920s. Though, perhaps, best known in Cleveland for its monumental public buildings like Severance Hall, Municipal Stadium, and the Public Auditorium, Walker and Weeks eventually became one of the most sought-after bank builders in the Midwest. (source: clevelandhistorical.org)

Dr. Freson's first floor office includes two exam rooms, a waiting room, auxiliary testing room, phone storage room, a closet and lunch room plus another office. He sees about fifty patients a month. Most of his patients come from the surrounding neighborhoods: Riverview Apartments, Clark-Fulton, downtown and West 9th Street, and from as far as Parma and Lakewood. He accepts a number of payment arrangements for services including Medicare and Medicaid. The vast majority of Medicaid enrollees lack access to other affordable health insurance.

His patients range in age from 4 years-old to elderly people in their nineties.

Dr. Freson knew something was wrong when he contacted MRN Ltd in mid-April to discuss a new lease. He was referred to Mr. Joseph Del Re, Chief Operating Office, who told him in a phone conversation that they were not planning to renew his lease.

A few weeks later, on May 30th, he received a letter from Mr. Geoffrey Goss, General Counsel and HR Director at MRN Ltd informing him that he had thirty days to vacate the property.

Prior to the letter from Mr. Goss, Dr. Freson tried to talk to Mr. Ari Maron, spokesman for the Cleveland-based realty company responsible for the East Fourth Neighborhood and Uptown retail/multifamily

properties--his partners are Rick, his father and company founder, and his younger brother, Jori, but his request for a 10-minute phone conversation went unanswered.

In a phone conversation with Dr. Freson, Mr. Goss was willing to extend the lease an extra 30-days, until the end of July. A few days later, he sent an email requesting that Dr. Freson sign a contingency lease and provide an exit strategy. The email stated that he was eligible to stay the extra month to move his business but, just as quickly, Mr. Goss, apparently not speaking on behalf of MNR Ltd, changed his mind. Dr. Freson was told to leave by June 30th.

"MRN's timetable is of no concern to me," said Dr. Freson. "My timetable is obviously of no concern to them. I'm assuming they rented the space to someone else, but they've told me nothing."

Dr. Freson will have to cancel previously scheduled appointments if he doesn't get a lease extension. Generally, he schedules clients two or three months in advance and, in some cases, up to two-years. He's searching for a new location in Ohio City for his practice but doesn't have anything finalized yet.

"I'd like to pay my employees and get a transition plan going but I don't know if that's going to be possible," he said. "Counting myself, we have seven part-time employees and two full-time. I'd like to stay in the neighborhood and take my employees with me."

Tears welled up in his eyes as he looked across the office where his optometrist business has been for the past thirty-seven years. "I'll probably find a place where I can continue for a few more years," said Dr. Freson. "I think I'll be okay."

Editor's Note: Dr. Freson found a new office space at Lutheran Hospital, 1730 W. 25th, Suite 3000

Lamia, host of local production Horror Hotel, receives national recognition

Cleveland's own Lamia from "Horror Hotel" was named runner-up for "Favorite Horror Host" in the 17th Annual Rondo Hatton Classic Horror Awards.

TV20, which airs the show locally, promoted the show last year saying: "Produced locally here in the City of Cleveland by REEL TV, TV20 is happy to bring you: *Horror Hotel!* Hosted by Lamia, Queen of the Dark, and her trusty serpentine companion, Lilith. Horror Hotel will be a brand-new twist on TV20's Cleveland Classic Cinema, bringing classic & indie horror films, trivia, interviews, and an all-around spooky time. Horror Hotel will be airing at midnight this Friday and Saturday, with an 8PM airing on Sunday."

The Rondo Hatton Classic Horror Awards were created by David Colton and Kerry Gammill in 2002. The awards are fan-based, and have no connection to any commercial sponsor. The awards give national recognition to what fans believe is the best in the horror genre!

"Horror Hotel" is a hosted horror show produced entirely out of Cleveland. The show began broadcasting locally and on the web in 2013, before picking up national syndication in 2016. Currently, the show is available nationally on both Retro Television and The Action Channel. In Cleveland, the show also broadcasts on TV20. View show trailer: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oZ6jsE0el2NVFNrx-dGEGhNBT2acArEuX/view>

The award is great achievement by a local production. The show was created by lifetime Cleveland resident Ray Szuch, who grew up with a love of the horror host genre watching Ghoulardi and has worked in the film and television



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Friday, June 14, 2019; Farm in the City, Halloran Park, 3550 W. 117th Street: Children delight in petting a Holstein calf named Buckeye. Buckeye is visiting from Party Pals Farm in North Bloomfield, Ohio.

industry since the 1970s. The show is written, produced, hosted and edited by Lamia. The entire on-set production team is local to Cleveland, the show is filmed on the West Side of Cleveland at a studio on Storer Avenue.

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Saturday, June 15, 2019; Corner of Clark and W. 25th, US Bank Parking Lot; The band Los Tres Sonidos performs at a rainy La Placita festival, an open-air market celebrating Hispanic heritage. Carlos Berrios, Johnny Gonzales, and Tony Pegan make up the band.

CENTRAL TREMONT BLOCK CLUB WEIGHS IN

continued from page 3

Gardens.

J Roc Development is proposing to construct a 124 to 140-unit apartment building connected to the Towpath Trail and overlooking Cleveland's industrial valley with panoramic views of the Cuyahoga River. The 2-acre parcel on Literary Road purchased by J Roc is zoned industrial, which means the development corporation is seeking a rezoning from industrial to mixed use. Spot zoning, as it is referred to,

is the process of singling out a small parcel of land for a use classification totally different from that of the surrounding area, for the benefit of the owner of such property, often to the detriment of other owners.

In some states, spot zoning is illegal and has uniformly been denied in zoning appeals when there is substantial impact upon surrounding land. The City of Cleveland currently has no consistent urban design standards that would limit the mass, height, and appearance of any new construction. Without a master plan, developers can pick and choose parcels that serve the interest of their investors and ignore the concerns of surrounding neighbors, or the environmental impacts on the land.

With the Towpath Trail near to the entrance to Electric Gardens, the spot zone request could potentially conflict with the public use of the trail, as some critics of the develop-

ment project have suggested. The panoramic view, on the other hand, is an entirely different issue.

When Chris Nielson purchased his townhouse in Bergen Village four years ago, he was promised in a promotion from Sutton Development Group, "an astonishing scenic view from its enviable location... with unparalleled views and panoramic setting...with a nostalgic touch of Cleveland's history, and most of all, a distinctive experience in urban living."

The J Roc Development parcel borders his property line. Even with the current redesign of a 4-story apartment building, lower than the 5-story first presented to the block club, Nielson's scenic view will be blocked. The effect is like having someone cut in front of you to get the better view.

Erin Taylor from J Roc Development explained. "The process of

Abbey Avenue makes connections

by Gwendolyn Kochur

Roads are not only a means of travel—they are a way for people to connect. Abbey Avenue makes up only about 3,500 feet of the city's sprawling roads—but what it lacks in distance, it makes up for in significance, connecting historic districts of Cleveland.

Many people recognize Abbey Avenue by its name alone, however, what is most important is what it makes accessible.

Ohio City, with its versatile dining options, entertainment and the West Side Market, lies just west of Tremont, a hub of Victorian homes and of trendy eateries and festivals. Acting as a direct connection between the two is Abbey Avenue.

The Abbey Avenue Bridge also gives Tremont residents access to Columbus Road which is the home of St. Wendelin's Parish to the south and also leads to the Cleveland's Metropark's Merwin's Wharf and other amenities to the north by the Cuyahoga River.

Abbey Avenue runs west through Tremont to Ohio City. As viewed from a map, Abbey Avenue is actually within the reach of three historic districts, as it is only a few streets away from Scranton Flats.

Abbey Avenue also runs through Duck Island, which is the source of many new housing sites and condos. The Duck Island Club, which started as a speakeasy during prohibition days, is located just a block off of Abbey at 2102 Freeman Ave., next door to some of the new housing units.

The Inner Belt Bridge that runs perpendicular to Abbey Avenue was originally built in 1959, and it can be argued that it split neighborhoods in half, making Abbey Avenue's connecting trait even more important.

One of the businesses effected by this was the Gateway Animal Clinic at 19th and Abbey, which had to move farther west on Abbey Avenue from W. 15th and Abbey in order to accommodate plans for the construction of a new Inner Belt Bridge that began around 2010. Stripmatic Products, a stamping plant that manufactured tubular metal parts from an Abbey Avenue plant since 1948, was forced to relocate outside of the neighborhood due to the plans for the new Inner Belt Bridge which included its property.

The Abbey Bridge has gone through its fair share of changes **continued on page 7**

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design approval and rezoning has been costly and time consuming. Still, we are committed to moving forward with completion of the project in the near future."

"The first meeting we had with Councilman Kerry McCormack was 677 days ago," Taylor said. "We'll have met twenty-nine times since then, with Bergen Village about six times and Central Tremont Block Club six times. We've really tried to work with residents; listen to their feedback; and have the spirit of compromise."

Compromise for J Roc Development designers and architects meant scaling back their project from a 5/1 construction (five stories over a garage) stick building with a scaled height of 81 feet, to proposing removal of more than 14,000 yards of soil to lower the height of the building to 51 feet. As of last month, they settled on a 4/1 (four stories with a garage) design with a height of 42 feet, just a few feet above the Bergen Village current height level.

Sutton Development Group built Bergen Village in 2009. Their website promotes Tremont's first gated community as a residence on Tremont's Ridge that enjoys "an astonishing scenic view from its enviable location...with a nostalgic touch of Cleveland's history, and most of all, a distinctive experience in urban living."

"Many of the homes have gorgeous city views that must be experienced," reported several real estate sites with listings of the townhouses for sale.

That could all change if J Roc Development gets approval to rezone the industrial site. Electric Garden will create a barrier to the scenic view of the industrial valley from Bergen Village. The developers make no excuses for their plans to piggyback onto the success of the Towpath Trail and monetize the views of the industrial valley. In fact, it's their selling point.

"We made simple moves to orientate the building, break down the scale, and engage it with the view," said Bill Neburka from Evident Architecture Office, while disusing the design process. "We wanted to push the building as close to the Towpath as possible," added Taylor.

Current projections for a typical unit at Electric Gardens are 600 to 1100 square feet, with a monthly rent of \$1200 - \$2200 depending on the apartment. J Roc Development representatives expressed interest in

committing 5% - 10% for workforce housing.

Workforce housing is a term used by developers to provide attractive and affordable housing for middle-income service workers, such as police officers, teachers and nurses, in close proximity to their jobs. Households earning from 60 percent to 120 percent of the area's median income are often considered eligible for workforce housing. Affordable housing, on the other hand, is generally used for households where income is less than 60 percent of AMI (Annual Median Income).

The median household income in Tremont is \$40,561 or 27% lower than the national average.

Proponents believe every city needs workforce housing, so people can live near where they work especially those workers who are essential to the local economy.

Tax incentives for workforce housing in Qualified Opportunity Zones like Tremont are meant to promote job and wage growth. Developers can temporarily defer taxes on capital gains with restrictions but the types and compatibility of housing, and the impact on the character of neighborhood rarely get discussed, according to residents of Bergen Village.

Nielson appreciates the effort J Roc is going through to engage with local residents, but the Central Tremont Block Club approved a three-story construction project, not four-story. The first renderings of the project were made public less than a month ago, according to him.

"I think your depiction of the neighborhood concerns like parking, density, and building height are legitimate," said Nielson, "but they go beyond that. We don't know the impacts that can evolve as the project gets built. The massing and appearance of the building is a monolith. A monolith is a monolith. It's our view and it's a monolith."

Several Bergen Village properties are currently listed for sale from between \$425,000 - \$615,000.

"From the design perspective, Electric Garden still has to go through the design review process and City Planning Commission," Riordan added.

When the vote tally was returned, there were 31 votes in favor of rezoning the site from industrial to mixed use, and 13 votes against it.

Nielson was visibly disappointed. "They can simply do better," he said.

ABBEY AVENUE

continued from page 6

throughout the years, including being closed for long periods of time for repairs or while awaiting funding for rebuilding the bridge. The most recent changes being in 2013 when the road underwent more than four months of work. The road was closed for east-bound drivers while new pavement was poured for the bridge. The work resulted in wider sidewalks and two new bike lanes.

Not only did the finished product benefit drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, the work changed the look of the road cosmetically.

Just down the street in Tremont is Sokolowski's University Inn, a family owned and operated restaurant since 1923. Specializing in Polish cuisine, Sokolowski's is the oldest family owned restaurant in Cleveland, and the family prides itself on serving "the working man and business person for over 92 years."

Michael Sokolowski, who is one of the Sokolowski's to carry on the restaurant's name and Polish cuisine, has seen Abbey Avenue adapt.

"So much has changed—really in the past 10 years," Sokolowski said.

Sokolowski recalls that, as one traveled west on Abbey, heading toward the West Side Market, there was a huge warehouse along the road. It was slowly demolished and disassembled in 2009. Cleveland natives weren't the only ones to recognize this change in scenery.

"I have friends from college who come to visit and ask 'What happened here?'" Sokolowski said.

The area then underwent landscaping and became part of the Towpath trail that runs 81 miles from Cleveland to New Philadelphia. This section of the Towpath trail stretches a quarter of a mile and cost about \$5 million to complete.

This project included adding 100 new parking spaces off Abbey Avenue for easy access to the trail. When completed, the Towpath trail will cover 101 miles from Lake Erie to New Philadelphia, Ohio. The piece of the Towpath that intersects with Abbey Avenue opened in 2017

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Another landmark that disappeared with the passing of time was the Coca Cola Bottling Company near east Abbey Avenue, just off of Crown Avenue. While exact dates of the Bottling Company's departure from the area are unknown, the building disappeared from historical maps sometime between 1937-1951.

This building was outlived by its next-door neighbor, the Distribution Terminal Warehouse Company, a 131 ft. high-rise. The 12-floor building broke ground in 1926 and was demolished 85 years later in 2011.

According to *Emporis*, the Warehouse Company, also known as the Cold Storage Co., was often decorated with ads that could be clearly seen by travelers and commuters using the Inner Belt Bridge. It was demolished to make space for the George V. Voinovich Bridge.

As for the roads, path and the Abbey Avenue bridge itself, the building materials have changed.

Sokolowski remembers the Abbey Avenue bridge being better suited for horse and buggy. However, as Cleveland became industrialized, the bridge had to be adapted to cater to vehicles of greater horsepower in the 1980's.

Sokolowski and his family know first hand just how important Abbey Avenue is when it comes to connecting Tremont to Ohio City. He remembers when the bridge was closed for a long period of time.

"We had our struggles getting across that short area [to Ohio City]," Sokolowski said.

According to him, this was one of the main areas to shop as an alternative to downtown Cleveland, which he described as "hopping in those days."

Sokolowski remembers a Dillard's in downtown Cleveland as well as Morgan Linen Services, which is still in business today on Columbus Road. He also speaks fondly of Fuzzy's Bar that he frequented around 1965/66 and noted that there were many bars accessed by Abbey Avenue that could be enjoyed.

The *Plain Press* chronicled the efforts of Tremont activists trying to get the bridge repaired in the 1980s. An article titled, *Tremont gets promises for needed bridge repairs*, written by Tremont West Development Corporation organizer Robert Laycock and appearing in the November 11, 1983 issue reported, "Passage of special legislation in City Council on November 14 brought reopening of the Abbey Avenue Bridge closer." According to the November 1983 article City of Cleveland officials promised members of the Free Tremont Committee that "Construction would begin by May of 1985 and be completed by May 1986, assuming all goes well." However, apparently not everything went well—by the 20th anniversary of the *Plain Press* in 1991, the bridge



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, June 14, 2019; Farm in the City, Halloran Park, 3550 W. 117th Street: Children check out the goats. The goats are visiting from Party Pals Farm in North Bloomfield, Ohio.

was not yet open. A note in the *Plain Press* 20th Anniversary Scrapbook notes, "A new Abbey Road Bridge is scheduled to open soon."

Getting to downtown with the bridge closures in Tremont was a challenge, but Tremont residents were up to the challenge and even made a sport of it. An article in the early 1980s in the *Plain Press* titled *First Tremont Auto Race blazes path to downtown* notes that Jeff Chiplis won the race in his 1978 Chevette, going from the closed W. 14th Street I-90 ramp to public square downtown in 7 minutes and 33.6 seconds. With many routes out of Tremont to downtown including the Abbey Bridge closed at the time, the article said, "here is Chiplis' first place route to Public Square: W. 14th, Abbey, W. 13th Place, University, Scranton, Carter, Old River, St. Clair, Ontario, Public Square."

Another institution along Abbey Avenue that is no longer with us and is sorely missed is Haab's Bakery. After 104 years in business, Haab's Bakery, just off of Abbey Road on W. 19th Street, closed in 2000. When the business was owned by Elfriede Haab, she placed an ad in nearly every issue of the *Plain Press* in the 1980s and 1990s. The ad featured the Haab bakery building that also served as her home and looked like a gingerbread house. The bakery supplied merchants at the West Side market as well as area residents with freshly baked goods. Nicholas Haab, who later inherited the business, had ties to the neighborhood too. He was a graduate of St. Ignatius High School.

Abbey Avenue is also south of one of the most recognizable symbols of Cleveland. Plastered across social media, categorized under various hashtags such as #thisiscle or #clevelandsign, are thousands of pictures of those posing with a Cleveland Script Sign.

Only six of these signs can be found around the city, one of them being off of Abbey Avenue. The signs were installed by Destination Cleveland, who told Fox 8 that "the sign provides both a tangible Cleveland brand experience to visitors and residents alike, and another opportunity for iconic images of Cleveland to be shared throughout the world."

Like all of the Cleveland Script Signs, the Script Sign accessed by Abbey Avenue features a beautiful cityscape background. Social media savants can pose before the Innerbelt and Shoreway bridges with the Key Bank Tower and Terminal Tower peeking out behind. If visitors take their photo on the night of an Indian's win, they can capture the fireworks of Progressive Field in their photo.

Abbey Avenue's sign was one of the first three installed in Cleveland, being erected in 2016 before the Republican convention set upon the city. The 8-foot-high, 16-foot-long sign may only be a little over two years old, but the \$20,000 script is putting Abbey Avenue on the map and will document it for years to come.

Another lasting Abbey Avenue icon exists in the form of a beer from Great Lakes Brewery. The Ohio City brewing company named a Dubbel beer after the street, honoring the Gehring Brewery that used to be housed only a few blocks away from Abbey Avenue.

According to Great Lakes Brewery's description of the beverage, "The street [Abbey Avenue] now links our own Ohio City neighbor-

hood to historic Tremont, and the beer links Cleveland history to a dark, malty Belgian Dubbel."

While Abbey Avenue has certainly experienced plenty of changes throughout its lifespan, its purpose has remained the same. To this day, and hopefully for many days in the future, Abbey Avenue remains a means of connection.

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles featuring streets in the *Plain Press* service area. The *Plain Press* will be publishing features on major streets in our service area leading up to the March 2021 fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the *Plain Press*.

The articles were written this past fall by students in *Plain Press* Board member and Cleveland State University Professor Leo Jeffres' Communication's Class at Cleveland State University. *Plain Press* readers are welcome to send in their memories of events, businesses and places on major commercial streets in the *Plain Press* service area to be incorporated into these articles as the *Plain Press* staff and volunteers prepare the articles for publication. The *Plain Press* serves the area from the Cuyahoga River to W. 140th and from Lake Erie to the Big Creek Valley. Streets we hope to publish features on include: Denison Avenue, Fulton Avenue, Detroit Avenue, Franklin Boulevard, Lorain Avenue, Clark Avenue, Storer Avenue, Madison Avenue, Professor Avenue, W. 14th, W. 25th/Pearl, and W. 117th. Contributions can be sent to plainpress@gmail.com.

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Style Question: What is right and best to wear inside the hotel and inside the hotel suite?

Respectfully,
Mr. Hotel, Motel, Holiday Inn

Hi Mr. Hotel, Motel, Holiday Inn!

This is a great question and I am so happy to answer it because last month, I shared with the ladies how to look stylish while on vacation, but I did not include anything for men, and I certainly did not touch on loungewear! Nobody wants to see or be the guy in his ill-fitting robe and underwear hovering over the continental breakfast line. So, let's get right into it shall we?

T-shirts: Stock up on as many comfortable t-shirts in a variety of colors and styles that you can afford because they will come in handy for summer time casual wear, but are perfect for lounging around in the hotel. You can choose from cotton,



Silk Allen

FASHION

or cashmere, but pay attention to the cuts that you choose. If you like looser boxier fits go for a scoop neck, but if you prefer a slimmer style then try it with a crew or v-neck line. If you are unsure, try both of them on in a store and see which one looks the best on you. Not just for your hotel stay, these tees will also look great with shorts and jeans if you choose them correctly.

Sweaters: A lightweight sweater like a long sleeve tee, henly or thermal are great for those of us who get chilly at night or maybe your room has a balcony that you want to sit out on. A slim, but not too tight fit, is flattering and you can jazz it up by choosing styles with prints, patterns, zippers and pockets which is great for fashion and function. If you are unsure of what colors to get, stick with a classic navy, gray or black; you can't go wrong.

Trackpants: Look for a slim fit and tailored trouser style with adjustable drawstrings and pockets with zippers in order to keep a room key and anything else you need to secure. Have fun and go for a pair with contrasting colors, prints or even your favorite team logo and wear them with one of your simple tees or sweaters.

Sweatpants: Seemingly the easiest of all loungewear, sweatpants can be tricky if you don't get the fit right! A slim contoured fit always looks more pulled together than a baggy shapeless style and will look like you actually made an effort to look "presentable" while on vacation. Go for silk, cashmere or cotton depending on your level of comfort and budget.

Pajamas: Don't mistake a good pair of pajamas for being old fashioned and stuffy! A classic answer to loungewear and an exercise in personal style, there are so many choices and combinations like plaids and stripes, pastel jacquard and colored piping that you can't go wrong! Pants should be relaxed and light and don't be afraid to pair them with one of your tees or sweaters for a high-low casual look.

Slippers: Yes, you can pack your Nike or whatever other sportswear

slides that you have, but why not go for an upgraded woven, velvet or suede loafer type of slipper? Add a splash of color with purple, green, plaid or graphic designs, but whatever you do, say, "No" to packing the dinosaur head, Bart Simpson shaped, roaring, belching novelty slippers that look best at home and no where else!

The best thing about this loungewear is the fact that all of it can be sourced at any and every price point so splurge wherever you see fit. Also, your significant other will thank you for leaving the shapeless, oversized "dad" tees and basketball shorts at home and, after seeing how good you look, hopefully, in the recycling bin.

Thank you for writing in, I hope this all makes sense to you! If not, I have affordable shopping and personal styling services available to specifically address your concerns and issues. Email me anytime at la-dysilk@thehouseoffly.com.

RIVERVIEW WELCOME CENTER

continued from page one

by has partnered with LAND studios to do just that. The goal is to turn the former Riverview Community Center, for years being used as a storage facility, into a new welcome center for all of the citizens of Ohio City. The center is located at 1701 West 25th at the corner of W. 25th and Franklin Boulevard.

Born in Sudan, Malaz has had extensive education from around the world, studying architecture in London and receiving a master's degree in design from Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar. From there she began designing community buildings internationally, winning more awards along the way, but always keeping her values from Sudan in mind.

"My father comes from a Sufi village in south of Khartoum," Malaz said. "Part of the Sufi culture that I grew up with is very entrenched in community service and we grew up watching my grandmother cook for the whole village, feeding the whole village – the house was always open. You don't just live, trying to serve your own dreams. Your own wellbeing is connected to the wellbeing of your community."

Malaz is hoping to bring these same values to her most recent project – creating a welcome center that unites all the people of Ohio City. She talked of a building in her childhood village that everyone in the community gathered, every day.

"They eat together, they celebrate together, they solve their problems." It was a way for people to interact and become familiar.

Creating a building like this in Ohio City is a large task, as the range of socioeconomic classes are vast. The city houses many senior citizens in the Riverview high rises while, at the same time, there are young families moving in. Despite gentrification projects, the city still struggles to create a central bond for all of the varying neighborhoods.

"If we don't do anything about it, it's just going to continue that path of keeping those communities segregated and isolated," Malaz said. "and eventually it's gonna break."

In order to know how to unite the people and what they wanted from their community center, Malaz set out to truly get to know Ohio City residents. "When I came here, I didn't know the community very well. I'm an outsider, so how am I going



Friday, June 14, 2019; View of the Cuyahoga River from Whiskey Island. Boats wait for the bridge to open. Fifty years after the Cuyahoga River caught fire for the last time on June 22, 2019, Clevelanders celebrated progress toward a cleaner river on the weekend of June 19-23rd with a series of clean water events.

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

to get to know the people?"

Luckily, Malaz had previous experience in immersing herself in projects like these. She once spent a week homeless on the street to understand the importance of personal space. During the economic crisis, she lived with a single mother struggling to provide for her child. She did these things to align her community buildings with the needs of the people she was building them for. When she was a kid, Malaz' mother would constantly remind her of the power of empathy.

"She would regularly take us to the orphanage for us to see the children there and to help them, understand them, to understand that their struggle is part of life and that everyone is destined with a different sort of struggle; even though you feel you are struggling, there is something in you that can help others, and that is what you can focus on"

Malaz spent four months talking to residents of Ohio City and gathering information. She attended dozens of events ranging from AA meetings to personal dinner parties. Malaz said one of the most revealing experiences was when she became an Uber driver for the Ohio City neighborhood.

"Just driving people around . . . what happens is you trust people into your own personal space. You're vulnerable because you allow them into your car, your space. In exchange, they trust you and so that sort of exchange of trust allows for a lot of stories and information to be learned."

After hearing what the people had to say, Malaz and her team came up with four values to base their project on: community, inclusivity, diversity, and dignity. She highlighted dignity as perhaps the most important.

"Dignity is a place to be, to exist, without having to pay, without having to do things, you can just be who you are, and you feel welcome."

This theme of dignity has been put into action with the Out Print/In Print project. For the In Print half of the project, citizens are given cameras to photograph people and spaces to explore the theme of dignity. These photos will then be developed, and some will be exhibited inside the Riverview Welcome Center on opening day, August 1.

Portraits of citizens are being taken as well and these photos will be pasted on the outside of the Welcome Center to represent the inclusiveness and diversity of the building itself thereby representing the Out Print portion. The project

is Cleveland's first experiment with Inside Out, created by renowned artist JR to help engage the world in a global art project.

In the future, Malaz hopes to expand the Riverview Welcome Center into a large park overlooking the Cuyahoga River. The future design includes a walkway to a rooftop overlook covered in grass. In order for the project to be set in motion, additional funding is needed as well as the stabilization of Irish-town bend and the straightening of Franklin Boulevard. Malaz says if they can bring enough attraction to the welcome center and keep the momentum going from there, good things are sure to come.

"I don't want to settle. If this is what my team can do with this limited budget and in a short time span, imagine what we could do together as a community when we think big. We know we can get there. I know it's hard for people to have hope when they've been broken so many times, but you know what? Give me chance. That's what I want to tell people. I will do my best."

The Riverview Welcome Center is hosting the Cleveland Common Ground on June 30 as well as the annual AA Cleveland anniversary. The OUT Print/IN Print exhibit is scheduled to open at the Riverview Welcome Center on August 1st.

CLASH REVIEWS LEAD LEGISLATION

continued from page 3

through City Council or through a ballot initiative, what's important is that we protect kids in the best way we know how. CLASH is encouraged to see the progress made by City Council, but, as long as we see areas for improvement, we will remain active."

ABOUT CLEVELAND LEAD ADVOCATES FOR SAFE HOUSING: Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing (CLASH) is dedicated to protecting the most vulnerable citizens in the City of Cleveland. Member

organizations include the Cleveland Lead Safe Network, Single Payer Access Network, Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus, Black Lives Matter of Cuyahoga County, Cleveland End Poverty Now Coalition, Organize!Ohio, Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, Cleveland Democratic Socialists of America, Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition, and Black on Black Crime, Inc. For more information or to volunteer with CLASH contact Yvonka Hall at the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus at 216-802-8201 or by email at ymhall@msn.com.

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