



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR  
Sunday, August 18, 2019; St. Emeric Hungarian Festival, St. Emeric Parish Hall, 1860 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street: A St. Emeric Parish volunteer serves up Hungarian food to guests at the festival.

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# Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

## A look at Lorain Ave while traveling down memory lane

by Kevin Coleman

Lorain Avenue is a Cleveland thoroughfare spanning approximately 12 miles from its beginning at the Hope Memorial Bridge to the Rocky

River. As soon as motorists traverse the 256-foot-long Lorain Viaduct, the street becomes Lorain Road and runs all the way to – you guessed it – Lorain, Ohio.

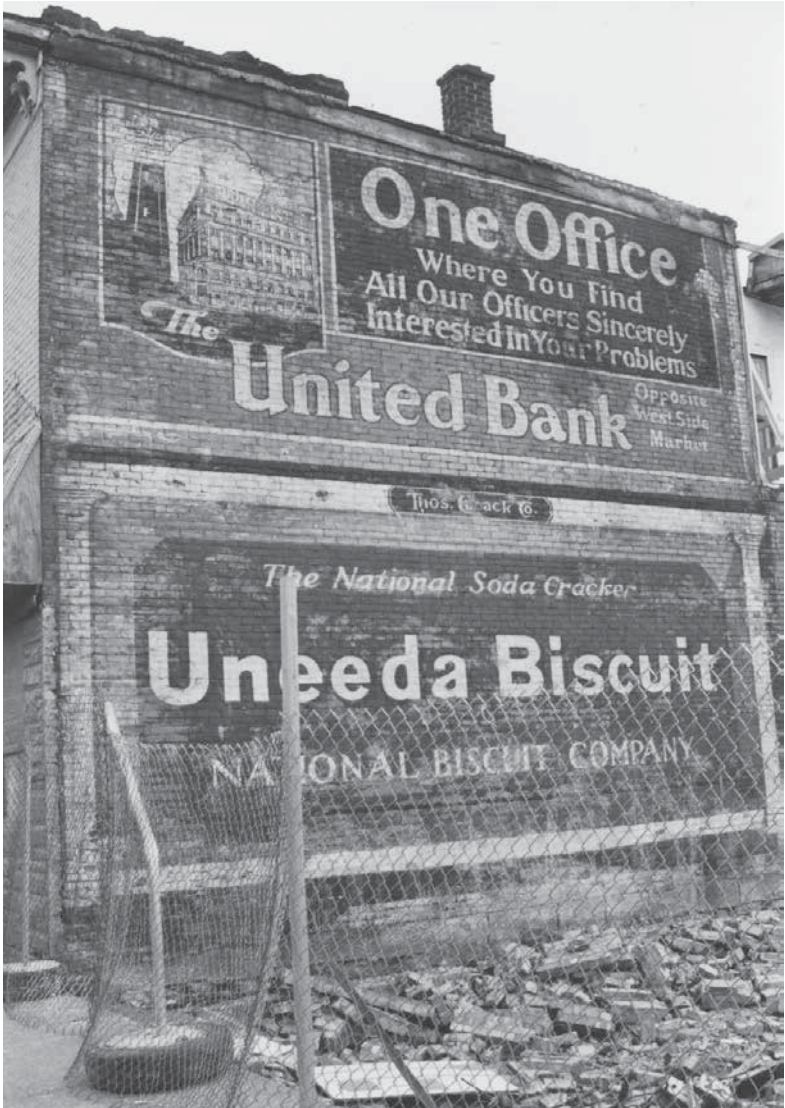


PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON (Plain Press Archives)  
Tuesday, April 20, 2004; W. 48<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue: The demolition of the Laub Bakery to make way for Urban Community School has uncovered the side of an adjoining building on Lorain Avenue. These two signs on the building are well preserved due to lack of exposure to the weather.

## MetroHealth holds open houses to share plan for campus transformation

by Chuck Hoven

MetroHealth Medical Center invited the community to a series of open houses in August to learn more about its one-billion-dollar Campus Transformation plan.

Those visiting one of the open houses experienced a virtual reality tour of the future main hospital building; learned about community programs that MetroHealth offers; saw plans for construction and design of the future campus; heard more about proposed neighborhood enhancements; learned of MetroHealth's EcoDistrict plans as well as its sustainability efforts; viewed an augmented reality model of the proposed campus; and obtained a bird's eye view of the construction site for the new hospital building from the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the new View Road Parking Garage.

The virtual reality tour offered guests at the open house a view of what the inside and grounds of the new hospital building will look like when completed. Guests put on virtual reality goggles and traversed the lobby, lounge areas, patient rooms, a three seasons room, and even the rest rooms of the future

hospital building. The virtual reality tour showed a pediatric unit with an outdoor area for children to play and rehab from injuries. The view that a guest experienced with the goggles was projected on a screen, so that others not wearing goggles could share in the experience.

### Neighborhood Enhancements

Greg Zucca, Director of Economic Development and Community Transformation for MetroHealth Medical Center, was on hand to offer additional information about proposed neighborhood enhancements that will be part of the MetroHealth Campus Transformation. Zucca said the 72 units of affordable housing and the 5,000 square foot multipurpose space, planned as part of the transformation plan, will be built on what is now a MetroHealth owned parking lot bounded by Sackett Avenue on the North, MetroHealth Drive on the south, W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street on the west and Scranton Road on the east.

Zucca said the affordable housing units must meet federal guidelines for what is affordable. He said the federal definition of affordability is continued on page 6

Lorain Avenue begins at the rustic Hope Memorial Bridge, originally named the Lorain-Carnegie Bridge. The 4,490-foot-long art deco truss viaduct was designed by engineers from Wilber J. Watson & Associates and finished construction in 1932 with a price tag of \$4.75 million (\$85.2 million adjusted for inflation).

The most distinguishable features of the Hope Memorial Bridge are the eight massive statues named the "Guardians of Traffic." The statues were sculpted by Henry Hering out of limestone derived from a nearby quarry in Berea and symbolize progress in transportation throughout the years.

An article in the June 20 – July 24, 1983 Plain Press by David Beach titled "Merchants look forward to Lorain-Carnegie opening" anticipates the reopening of the Lorain Carnegie bridge in August of that year after being closed for repairs for three years. The article quotes three area businesses talking about the hardship caused by the closing of the bridge including Virginia Purvis of Fridrich Bicycles at 3800 Lorain Avenue; Bruce Loch, owner of the Chicken and Subs at 3713 Lorain continued on page 4



PHOTO BY CLARENCE MADISON (Plain Press Archives)  
July 1985; Lorain Avenue: Tina Gayer, co-chair of the Lorain Avenue Business Association, sees crime prevention as the highest priority. In this photo from the Plain Press archives, Gayer is standing in front of a car lot on W 47<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue. In the background behind her you can see a sign for a 5 & 10 store and Gerst Tax Services on the north side of Lorain Avenue, and Arrow International's sign, a company that made bingo and charity supplies, appearing on the south side.

## Main street

### WHAT IS HAPPENING TO LORAIN AVENUE

by Alix Walker

Editor's Note: This article by Alix Walker, from the Plain Press archives, first appeared in the July 23-August 5, 1985 issue of the Plain Press. The Plain Press is publishing a series of articles on main streets in its circulation area as it approaches its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2021.

For the past decade, Lorain Avenue, between West 25<sup>th</sup> and W. 65<sup>th</sup>, has been experiencing transitional shock. Recession, population outflux, crime, and the traffic drain-off created by the opening of I-90 ten years ago have all combined to force this once-prosperous business district into a state of decline.

As a result, there is a high turnover of new businesses, while established businesses often have to struggle to remain solvent. Vacant lots and closed storefronts abound.

It is also difficult to attract the larger chain enterprises – such

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Thursday, August 15, 2019; Open House, MetroHealth Medical Center, 2500 MetroHealth Drive: A group of high school students and City Life Staff members involved in planning for future youth programs in the neighborhood, visited the MetroHealth Open House. The group especially enjoyed putting on goggles to participate in a virtual reality tour of the future hospital building. (L-R) Felix Latimer, Javon Wellson, J-Sun Martinez, Jamie Kinnett (City Life Center staff member), Joana Mendez, and Jonny Fine (City Life Center Director).



Sunday, August 4, 2019; Puerto Rican Parade, 2955 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Street: The Arroyo Family celebrates while watching the parade go past their house.

**ARTS/MUSIC/THEATRE**  
**ART HOUSE FREE EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER** at 3119 Denison Avenue: Family Open Studio – Origami: September 21, 1-3 p.m.: Family Clay Day, Ceramic Experience: September 28, 10 a.m. Noon.  
**CELEBRATE AN EVENING WITH TOMMY ORANGE**, St. John Episcopal Church, Church Ave., 5 p.m on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Native American Author Tommy Orange is this year's Anisfield-Wolf Book Award winner for fiction for his book, *There, There*. Entertainment including Native American music and dance.  
**MUSIC NEAR THE MARKET:** Featuring Cleveland's world-famous Becker-ath Organ. Every Wednesday, 12:15-12:45 p.m. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, W. 30<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue.  
**WALKABOUT TREMONT** is held every second Friday from 6 to 10 pm. For more information, visit [walkabouttremont.com](http://walkabouttremont.com)  
**78<sup>TH</sup> STREET STUDIOS**, 1300 W. 78<sup>th</sup> Street. Art Opening for over 50 studios and galleries every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month, 5-9 p.m. [78streetstudios.com](http://78streetstudios.com). At 78<sup>th</sup> Stree Studios on Fridays September 20 and October 18<sup>th</sup> Artists of Art House: Art Teaches, celebrate the important

contributions made by the artists who have worked with Art House to enrich the lives of residents in the Greater Cleveland area. These artists continue to inspire. Their dedication to give back to the community has impacted countless individuals. Through their skills and passion, art teaches. FREE  
**CHURCHES**  
**FRANKLIN CIRCLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH TO ORDAIN NEW MINISTER:** On Sunday, September 15 at 3:00 PM, Franklin Circle Christian Church in Ohio City will celebrate the ordination of Pastor Richard James Hinkelman into the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Pastor Hinkelman has recently completed his Master of Divinity from Methodist Theological School of Ohio and has completed all denominational requirements for the process of ordination set forth by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Presiding over the service will be Reverend Eugene James, the Regional Minister of the Michigan Disciples of Christ Region. Special guest preacher will be Franklin Circle's former pastor, Rev. Allen Harris, Regional Minister for the Capital Area Region. For further information, please contact the

church office, 216-781-8232.  
**CLEVELAND HISTORY**  
**CANAL BASIN PARK TOUR:** Free. Every Sunday at 10 a.m. until September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Meet at Flat iron Café, 1114 Center Street. For more information call 216-771-1994 or visit: [www.takeahikecle.com](http://www.takeahikecle.com)  
**COMMUNITY**  
**HISPANIC ROUNDTABLE** invites the entire community to Convención Hispania on Saturday, October 5 from 9 am. – 4 p.m. at Max Hayes High School, 2211 W. 65<sup>th</sup>. Free event includes free health screenings, civic and educational issues, food, music, activities for children and fun for entire family. Keynote speaker will be Puerto Rican singer,

schedule an appointment: [CWilliams@collegenowgc.org](mailto:CWilliams@collegenowgc.org) 216.635.0182.  
**HISPANIC ROUNDTABLE ESSAY CONTEST** for high school and college students. Scholarships up to \$2,500 will be awarded to winning essays. For more information call 440-570-0448.  
**SAY YES TO EDUCATION:** Students that are residents of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and plan to graduate from a CMSD school or partnering charter school may be eligible for a scholarship to pursue postsecondary educational opportunities. For more information visit: [SayYesCleveland.org](http://SayYesCleveland.org).  
**SEEDS OF LITERACY:** Free Adult Basic Education and GED Classes. Call 216-

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN



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.

musician and composer José Feliciano.  
**SECOND DISTRICT POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING:** Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Applewood Centers, 3518 W. 25<sup>th</sup> (In the gym on Daisey.)  
**COMMUNITY ACTION**  
**PEACE AT THE PUB:** September 10 at 7 p.m. at Market Garden Brewery, W. 25<sup>th</sup> next to the West Side Market. Guest speaker: Professor Jafar Mahallati, Chair of Middle East and North Africa Studies at Oberlin College, "A Dialog Against War Lobby Ideologies: Is US-Iran Encounter Real or Artificial?"  
**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](mailto:neighborhoodachievement@gmail.com), 216-584-8339.  
**EDUCATION**  
**COLLEGE NOW** Greater Cleveland on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Carnegie West Branch Library, 1900 Fulton Road: College Now assists adults with student loan debt, starting a degree program, returning to college to finish a degree, finding scholarships, financial aid and much more. Contact CoLean Williams, Adult Programs Specialist, to

661-7950 or visit: [www.seedsofliteracy.org](http://www.seedsofliteracy.org).  
**EMPLOYMENT**  
**U.S. CENSUS BUREAU** employment recruiter will be at the Carnegie West Branch Library, 1900 Fulton, on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Recruiting Assistant John Wagner will provide information and answer questions about current, local, part-time job opportunities with the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau offers great pay and hours to fit your schedule.  
**ENVIRONMENT**  
**JOIN A SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS SOLAR CO-OP:** A vendor neutral non-profit organization. Experts to guide you through each step of the process. Co-ops leverage the power of bulk purchasing to help you save money. [www.SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/Cuyahoga](http://www.SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/Cuyahoga)  
**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.

**Plain Press**  
2012 W. 25<sup>th</sup> STE 500  
Cleveland, OH 44113  
Phone: (216) 621-3060  
email:  
[plainpress@gmail.com](mailto:plainpress@gmail.com)  
Advertising email:  
[plainpressads@yahoo.com](mailto:plainpressads@yahoo.com)  
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**Editorial Intern:** Colin Murnan  
**Reporters:** Bruce Checefsky & Victoria Shea  
**Photo Editor:** Coriana Close;  
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**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.

**FESTIVALS**

**ST. JOHN CANTIUS POLISH FESTIVAL:** August 31 and September 1. Free polka band beginning at 7 p.m. Free admission.

**OHIO CITY STREET FESTIVAL:** On W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street in Ohio City on Sunday, September 29, Noon – 8p.m. Food, drink, retail, arts & entertainment. Kid zone with family friendly fun. Free and open to all.

**FOOD**

**FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION:** MetroHealth and Cleveland Food Bank will continue free produce distribution through the end of this year. Patients, community members or anyone in need of fresh food can stop by for a bag of produce. Just bring your ID (driver's license, state ID card, etc.) and your own bags. Distribution will occur from 10 a.m. – Noon on Tuesdays September 17, October 15, November 19 and December 17 at the Outpatient Pavilion (first floor, near pharmacy) at MetroHealth Medical Center, 2500 MetroHealth Drive  
**GREATER CLEVELAND FOOD BANK:** Call 216-738-7239, or visit [GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org](http://GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org) for food assistance. Apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) if you are under sixty (limits are higher for persons age 60 or older or persons receiving disability assistance) and your monthly family income is \$1,316 or less for a one-person household; \$1,784 or less for a two person household; \$2,252 or less for a three person household; 2,720 or less for a four person household. Add \$453 for each additional household member. For information about Food Stamps (SNAP) applications, food pantries, free produce, and hot meals text FOOD to 63566.

**HEALTH**

**TRI-C PREVENTIVE CARE** at Metro Campus will reopen for Fall Semester on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The center provides low-cost health care services to uninsured or underinsured adults while giving students valuable learning opportunities. Open 2-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays through November 21. Located in Room 105 of the Health Careers and Sciences building at Metro Campus, 2900 Community College Ave. Services include blood pressure readings; glucose and cholesterol screenings; physical therapy and occupational therapy; physical rehabilitation for daily living; pain management; bone density screenings; nutritional coaching; stress management; and exercise and education programs. No physician referral is needed for an appointment. To schedule a visit or find out about special health-related workshops, call 216-987-3555. For more information visit [www.tri-c.edu/carecenter](http://www.tri-c.edu/carecenter).  
**DISABILITY RIGHTS OHIO:** Appealing Medicaid decisions can be difficult to navigate on your own. If you or a loved one needs help, [contact DRO's intake department](http://www.tri-c.edu/carecenter) and refer to our new resource, [Medicaid: Appeals Overview](http://www.tri-c.edu/carecenter).  
**WALK N' ROLL TO CURE ATAXIA,** September 22 at Lakewood Park. Registration begins at 10 a.m. Event starts at 11 a.m. No registration fee. Free and

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**St. Colman Benefit**  
"Keeping the Doors Open"

Join Your Fellow Parishioners & Friends  
101 years

1918-2019 A NEW CENTURY of SERVICE  
of our St. Colman Church Building

**Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
At the  
West Side Irish American Club  
8559 Jennings Road,  
Olmsted Township, Ohio 44138  
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Our 2019 Honorees:  
Sr. Corita Ambro, CSJ  
Fr. Joseph McNulty  
Honorable Judge  
Sean Gallagher  
Honorable Judge  
Shannon Gallagher

**Single Admission Tickets: \$40.00**  
**Reserve table of 8 for \$600,**  
includes 8 admission tickets, program book acknowledgment [family or business name] and table purchaser receives one 50/50 raffle ticket  
**50/50 raffle tickets: \$20 each or 6 for \$100**  
[winner does not need to be present, last year winner won \$5,000]

**Raffle Baskets, Sideboards,  
Appetizers & Entertainment**

**Tickets may be purchased:**  
• After all weekend Masses  
• At the Parish Rectory

**To purchase tickets or for more information,**  
call the Parish Office at 216-651-0550 Ext. 100







PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, August 4, 2019; Puerto Rican Festival, Roberto Clemente Park, Seymour Avenue & W. 38th, Home Depot Booth: Aleyshka Feliciano, age 6, builds a picture frame with the help of her Grandmother Maria Roman, her mom Keyshla Perez, and Home Depot staff member Samone Starling.

## MEMORY LANE

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Avenue who closed his business as a result of loss of traffic due to the bridge closing; and J. Atkin, manager of Stork Baby Furniture at W. 32<sup>nd</sup> and Lorain Avenue, who recalled the when the Lorain Carnegie Bridge first opened in the 1930s.

Across W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street from the West Side Market is Market Square Park which has experienced several redesigns over the years. A front-page article titled “Market Square

Park project to be a community effort” by Richard Thomas in the October 23, 1984 Plain Press describes one such effort. The article describes the winning design chosen out of nine finalists competing to design the park. The design, by Environmental sculptor Carl Floyd, called for all parts of the design to be covered with ceramic tiles. Neighborhood residents and community organizations were to contribute the creation of the tiles.

On the Northeast corner of W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue shoppers and vendors convene at the West

Side Market to buy and sell some of the most decadent foods in Cleveland. Just a few blocks west on W. 30<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue, 1,500 of Cleveland’s brightest young people attend the esteemed St. Ignatius High School, rated the best Catholic High School in the Cleveland area for the 2019 school year.

A photo on the front page of the September 25 – October 8, 1984 issue of the *Plain Press* celebrates the ribbon cutting for the rehabilitation of the Miller Building at W. 32<sup>nd</sup> and Lorain Avenue. The rehabilitation carried out by Near West Housing Partners and Near West Housing Corporation was to provide apartments for low income residents and a center for Hispanic Senior Citizens. Near West Housing Corporation later was merged with Ohio City Development Corporation to form what today is Ohio City Inc.

Where Lorain Avenue intersects with Fulton Avenue, a former bank building at 3500 Lorain Avenue sits across from a Marathon gas station and a Planet Fitness. The building at 3500 Lorain in addition to originally serving as a bank, for many years served as an antique shop called Antiques at the Bank. More recently the building became the Green Bank Building with a number of environmental groups being housed in the building which offered many green features including use of geothermal heat on the first floor. While the environmental groups have moved on, several nonprofit organizations still call the building home, including Organize Ohio. While you would not know it by looking, there was once a theater sitting where the Planet Fitness is located today. The Lorain-Fulton Theater was built by Thomas Urbansky and his family and was known as a theater free of gaudy decorations which were common at the time. Being located in what was known to be the business district, the theater with rose and gold carpets on the inside was often thought to be a bank from its outward appearance.

The theater’s first showing, Wid Gunning’s “What Do Men Want?” was played on Christmas Day of 1921 and the theater continued operating into the late 1940’s before eventually being demolished.

For many years, the site was home to a Pick-N-Pay grocery store. After the grocery decided to close in 1985, there was an organizing effort by Near West Neighbors in Action to try to get the building owner to lease the store to another full-service grocery. Organizers also expressed concern that the Pick-N-Pay at W. 98<sup>th</sup> and Lorain would also close. An article in the October 7, 1986 *Plain*

*Press* by Chris Dickey of Near West Neighbors in Action titled “What’s Pick-N-Pay up to now?” describes the issues of concern at the time. Unique Thrift store was also located in the building for many years prior to the current tenant, Planet Fitness.

The stretch of Lorain Avenue from W. 25<sup>th</sup> to W. 45<sup>th</sup> contains has a rich history of social service and non-profit organizations. Organizations along this stretch include Ohio City Inc., West Side Catholic Center, Providence House, McCafferty Health Center, Catholic Worker, and the Spanish American Committee. Also located on this stretch of Lorain Avenue is Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church on W. 30<sup>th</sup> and its various ministries and St. Ignatius High School’s Arupe Center, also on W. 30<sup>th</sup> south of Lorain Avenue.

The front page of the November 4, 1986 Plain Press has stories about events on Lorain Avenue. A photo on the page features Chris Dickie, Paul Hurst and Hope Searight of Near West Neighbors in Action holding up a sign that say, “Honk for Traffic Light.” They are standing on the corner of W. 32<sup>nd</sup> and Lorain Avenue in front of the Miller Building where the office of Near West Neighbors in Action was located at the time. The group was not successful in getting the traffic light at that time, but the busy intersection which has a fire station and the West Side Catholic Center has a traffic light now.

The November 4, 1986 front page of the *Plain Press* also contained an article titled “New center helps women support women.” The article by Claire Farnsworth describes the opening of the new West Side Women’s Center at 4209 Lorain Avenue across the street from the McCafferty Health Center. The Women’s Recovery Center, now located on Storer Avenue, has its roots in this center which opened in 1986 on Lorain Avenue.

In the 1970s, individuals riding the #22 Lorain Avenue bus eastbound in the early morning included women who worked sewing clothing for the Joseph & Feis factory just south of Lorain Avenue at W. 53<sup>rd</sup>. The

factory later was run by Hugo Boss and then closed. Today the building has been rehabbed and serves as home of Menlo Park Academy – a school for gifted children.

The riders of the #22 bus also enjoyed a treat as they road by the Laub Bakery in the 4900 block of Lorain Avenue where the air was filled with the odor of freshly baked goods. Today the site is the home of Urban Community School.

The Zone Recreation Center at W. 65<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue has its own origin story, some of which is chronicled in the pages of the Plain Press. A December 21, 1977 article by Larry Bresler titled “\$1.5 million set for NWS Rec. Center” reported that City of Cleveland Community Development Director Norm Krumholz committed to \$1.5 million in the 1978 city budget to build a new near west side recreation center. Bresler, today the director of Organize Ohio remembers the organizing efforts that led to the commitment. (See SIDE BAR below)

Lorain Avenue also has a scattering of antique stores in its midsection. Suite Lorain at 7105 Lorain Road is also called a “vintage department store,” stocked with all sorts of items for some 28 years. The largest collection of antique stores on the street is found inside the Bijou Antique Gallery at 7806 Lorain or nearby.

While many historical buildings along Lorain Avenue have been lost to time, some of that loss can be attributed to construction of Interstate 90, which tore a path through the neighborhood and under Lorain Avenue at about W. 89<sup>th</sup> Street and Clark Avenue. From the mid-1960s to 1978, the part of Interstate 90 running from the Ohio Turnpike in Lorain County to Interstate 71 was built, opening on Nov. 4 of 1978 and reducing the east-west traffic on Lorain Avenue. Before the automobile came to dominate transportation in Cleveland, Lorain Avenue provided a street car route, with a turnaround at the Cleveland Railway Co. W. 98<sup>th</sup> Street, then called Wellington. One resident of the area recalls playing softball in the fields of the “construction site” that was to become I-90 near at W. 80<sup>th</sup> and Grace Avenue.

Going west from Zone Recreation Center, Lorain Avenue has a number of long-established businesses including Loraine Surgical Supply in a building on the Northwest corner of W. 65<sup>th</sup> and Lorain that has a long history and housed doctor’s offices in its upstairs in the

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## Community effort led to creation of Zone Recreation Center

The Zone Recreation Center at W. 65<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue has its own origin story, some of which is chronicled in the pages of the *Plain Press*. A December 21, 1977 article by Larry Bresler titled “\$1.5 million set for NWS Rec. Center” reported that City of Cleveland Community Development Director Norm Krumholz committed to \$1.5 million in the 1978 city budget to build a new near west side recreation center. Bresler, today the director of Organize Ohio, remembers the organizing efforts that led to the commitment.

Bresler says in the early 1970s a group called the Near West Side Recreation Coalition was heavily involved in trying to get a recreation center for the neighborhood. He said the Ralph Perk Administration had stonewalled them. In 1977, Perk lost in the primary and Ed Feighan and Dennis Kucinich were facing off in the general election. Bresler, who was a VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) Supervisor at the time, said mostly VISTA workers helped organize a meeting at St. Stephen’s Church on W. 54<sup>th</sup> to get both candidates to answer questions from the community about getting a recreation center. Bresler, who remembers the event like it was yesterday, says 300 to 400 people showed up at the event. He said, Feighan, who was from the neighborhood said he would like to see the recreation center happen, but due to the financial condition of the city, he could not make a commitment. Kucinich said to thundering applause, “You want your recreation center, you’ll get your recreation center.”

A week after Kucinich was elected, organizers met with Kucinich

and his people to discuss the recreation center and where it would be located. An old private gym at between 30<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> and Lorain on the South side of the street was one site proposed. It was determined to be too expensive to rehabilitate. Another site proposed was the Kentucky Garden on W. 38<sup>th</sup> between Bridge and Franklin – residents resisted the idea of giving up the garden. Bresler said finally organizers came up with a plan for what they believed was the ideal site – a site at W. 65<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue that had been cleared for freeway construction that the community opposed. They proposed the site to the Kucinich administration as serving two purposes – first – it had a lot of land for the recreation center and second -- building on the site would forever block efforts to extend I-71 from Denison Avenue to the Shoreway. Bresler recalled that Kucinich loved the idea.

Bresler said, George Voinovich, who was Lieutenant Governor at the time, supported the idea and helped to get the State of Ohio to set aside part of the land for the recreation center. Bresler said residents then met with architect Robert Madison and he put together a plan for the recreation center people wanted. The recreation center eventually opened in 1982 when Voinovich was mayor and was named after the late Councilman Michael Zone. Bresler speaks of the ten years of meetings, organizing and the work of residents committed to getting a recreation center for the neighborhood saying, “there never would have been a recreation center without that kind of effort.”

### IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2928 Scranton Rd. • 216-781-9511

**SUNDAY SERVICES:**

German service..... 9:00 am

English service.....10:30 am

*Serving God's People Since 1880*

REV. JERRY WITT-JABLONSKI, PASTOR  
REV. HORST HOYER, PASTOR EMERITUS

### Saint Ignatius Of Antioch Church

10205 Lorain Avenue (at West Boulevard)

216-251-0300 • SIOA.WECONNECT.COM

Rev. Kevin Estabrook, M.Div., M.A. - Pastor

**Mass Times:**

WEEKDAYS: MTWF 8:00AM

SATURDAY EVENING VIGIL: 5PM

SUNDAY: 9AM AND 11AM

**Confession:**

SATURDAY: 3:30PM-4:45PM;

SUNDAY 9:45AM-10:45AM,

AND BY APPOINTMENT

ANointing OF THE SICK AND

LAST RITES: AVAILABLE UPON

REQUEST

INQUIRIES INTO BECOMING

CATHOLIC:

CALL CHURCH OFFICE

**ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH CATHOLIC SCHOOL (K-8)**

ADMITS STUDENTS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, ETHNIC OR NATIONAL ORIGIN. CLEVELAND SCHOOL VOUCHERS ACCEPTED.

SCHOOL PHONE: 216-671-0535

### Franklin Circle Christian Church

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LORAIN

continued from page one

as McDonald's and Woolworth's – because Lorain Avenue is looked upon as a bad investment area. The vacant "Chuckie's Chicken" building near West 50<sup>th</sup> and Lorain, which for two years has sported an "opening soon" sign, has almost become a symbol for the area.

The reputation is not a very fair one, however, because Lorain is still a major traffic route and it has enormous potential. The question is, how to develop it?

One school of thought is to bring in small businesses that can serve the local population. "We've got to get more practical concerns," said Brad Shimp, who until recently was the commercial coordinator of the Ohio City Redevelopment Association (OCRA). "Because most people around Lorain rely on low and fixed incomes, Lorain should have more grocery stores, laundromats, and clothing stores. Something big like K-Mart could never make it here because this area hasn't the money to offset constructions costs."

The other school of thought is to bring in businesses that attract high volumes of consumers from the suburbs with more money to spend. Movie theatres, restaurants, department stores, entertainment businesses, and imported goods stores are examples.

Joseph Miller, an optometrist at 2620 Lorain says that such draws will inevitably spur local economic

growth. "Antique shops were the main attraction in the 1970s. Now Lorain needs an entertainment area to attract a bigger draw from the surrounding suburbs," he said.

The two approaches do not necessarily conflict, since there is room for both kinds of development. But the problem remains in attracting businesses and keeping them afloat once they move in.

The area could be made more attractive by cleaning up the litter and vandalism evident along the street. Grassroots efforts can do the job there, according to Councilwoman Helen K. Smith. "The lot on W. 41<sup>st</sup> and Randall used to be an eyesore. But the neighbors in the area joined efforts and put in shrubbery and landscaped it," she said.

Furthermore, there are government programs available to small businesses for renovation, Smith said. Up to \$7,500 in low interest loans are available for painting and window replacement. "Lorain between West 25<sup>th</sup> and West 45<sup>th</sup> is part of an OCRA target area," she said. "Money is available for anyone who needs it."

Lorain Ave. is a depressed area, yet it has enormous potential.

Such self-help has gradually had its effect over the last few years. "We've had some luck," Shimp says. "When I first came to OCRA there were one or two calls a month for new business entries. Now we're having two or three a week."

Ideally, Lorain Avenue merchants would work together to keep the street clean, form a crime watch program, lobby the city government to address their needs (such as more police protection), coordinate renovation, and do special street projects like holiday decorations. But organizing efforts have had only limited success. For starters, small business entrepreneurs are notoriously difficult to organize.

"Most businesses are already doing all they can to survive. They don't have time to give and it's hard to coordinate meetings at times when everyone can come," said Tina Gayer, who runs Gayer's Flower Emporium and who is also co-chair of the Lorain Avenue Business Association (LABA) along with Paul Fridrich of Fridrich's Bicycle Shop.

LABA was started two years ago when the job coordinator at the West Side Multi-Service Center sought to help local businesses provide more jobs. Under the leadership of Edda Incarnacion, who pounded the pavement and did much outreach work to merchants, LABA at first did well, bringing 10-15 people into its weekly meetings.

Unfortunately, LABA was a social service virtually programmed to fail. Only enough block grant money was provided to make the job coordinator position a part-time job, and only half of that time was spent coordinating LABA. After two years, the funding ran out. LABA is currently in limbo, without an organizer.

It takes a lot more to pull together a successful business coalition. Both OCRA and the Tremont Area Business Association (TABA) have full time staff coordinators. They became such active organizations because they were spearheaded by a few merchants who devoted energy and enthusiasm. They offer crime prevention and storefront renovation programs, organize festivals, and act as advocacy groups for the merchants.

Councilwoman Smith suggests that LABA was not needed so much because it duplicated OCRA's work. But even OCRA's future is now in doubt, even though it just held its biggest annual event, Sunday at the Market. Shimp quit last month because future funding for his job was in doubt, and the one other staff-person, Lois Davis, leaves July 31. OCRA is in limbo because there are no plans to replace them.

It may be left up to the Lorain Ave. merchants to organize themselves, if any have the time and energy to pull the others together.

Certainly, crime is an issue to begin organizing around: Gayer says her shop was broken into 15 times last year. She is thankful for the police, who caught most of the thieves, but a preventive crime program is needed.

"Consumer and merchant security are needed if Lorain is to attract outside traffic," Helen Smith said. "People have to know their cars will be safe in Lorain's parking lots and that they won't be held up."

In the meantime, merchants are mixed in their feelings on Lorain Avenue's future. Some express satisfaction with the way things are: "We're making a living, and we're happy with the area. It doesn't need any changes," one told the Plain Press. "I don't care if a warehouse moves in across the street as long as I make money," said another. A longtime merchant, who has seen prosperity come and go, commented, "When you've been here 50 years there's no way you run away. You've got to roll with the punches."

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PHOTO BY NAVY SENIOR CHIEF MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST GARY WARD  
July 24, 2019; Jacksonville, Florida: Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class LaSean Rice serves as a hospital corpsman responsible for processing and maintaining medical records at Naval Hospital Jacksonville and Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Jacksonville. Rice is a 2009 graduate of James Ford Rhodes High School.

Cleveland Native Serves at Naval Hospital Jacksonville by Dusty Good, Navy Office of Community Outreach

(Jacksonville, Fla.) – A 2009 James Ford Rhodes High School graduate and Cleveland, Ohio native is serving at Naval Hospital Jacksonville and Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Jacksonville.

Petty Officer 3rd Class LaSean Rice serves as a hospital corpsman that is responsible for processing and maintaining medical records.

Rice credits his hometown for giving opportunities he would not have had otherwise experienced that have helped in serving with the Navy.

"Growing up in Cleveland taught me how to work with a diverse group of people and work hard," said Rice. "You can take the skills from there and apply them in the Navy and that's been very useful in my service." Rice is currently enrolled at

Florida State College at Jacksonville pursuing a degree in health sciences.

Naval Hospital Jacksonville and Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (MNRTC) Jacksonville deliver quality health care, in an integrated system of readiness and health. Naval Hospital Jacksonville includes five branch health clinics across Florida and Georgia. It serves 163,000 active-duty and retired sailors, Marines, soldiers, airmen, guardsmen, and their families, including about 83,000 patients who are enrolled with a primary care manager.

"I joined the Navy because I wanted to do something great and not be a burden on anyone," said Rice. "I wanted to take care of my responsibilities and make them my own."

Federal grant awarded to shore up Cuyahoga River at Irishtown Bend

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, United States Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao announced the award of a \$9.02 million Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) to rehabilitate aged and failing riverbank infrastructure along the Cuyahoga River. The project includes the installation of approximately 2,600 linear feet of sheet steel bulkheads along the shoreline of the Cuyahoga Ship channel. This stretch of deteriorating shoreline, which is referred to as the Irishtown Bend, is at risk of failure due to the existence of aged and damaged bulkheads, which

would close Irishtown Bend to ship and barge traffic. The project supports economic vitality by rehabilitating aged and failing infrastructure and thereby preserving shipping access to the Cuyahoga River's channel.

The project generates regional safety benefits by preventing future hillside failures at Irishtown Bend and economic benefits from avoided business loss in the event of a hillside failure. The project demonstrates innovation through the implementation of a design-build method for project delivery in addition to employing a competitive procurement process to secure partners to execute the innovative financing strategy of a private crowdfunding platform.

LOUIS AGASSIZ

continued from page 3

and math, youth development and parent engagement. The Louis Agassiz School will also have program support from our recently opened Horizon Education Center at the Triskett Rapid Station."

Councilwoman Dona Brady, who represents ward 11 states that "this is a welcomed opportunity for the families and students of Louis Agassiz. I can't stress enough how important this type of collaboration is to the neighborhood. I'm excited

about the efforts recognizing the need and potential improvement to the health and education of our students."

"I want to personally thank WCDC and Horizon Education Center for partnering to create this new opportunity for our Louis Agassiz scholars", said CEO Eric Gordon. "These partnerships are critical parts of our students' education and I know they will benefit greatly from these new opportunities."

For additional information contact 216-941-9262 or Info@westowncdc.org.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Thursday, August 15, 2019; Open House, MetroHealth Medical Center, 2500 MetroHealth Drive: Jonny Fine, Director of the City Life Center, takes a virtual reality tour of the new hospital building.

## METROHEALTH

continued from page one

affordable to families having income between 30% and 80% of the area median income. The area is defined as the Greater Cleveland area, so the median family income for the entire area is higher than that of Cleveland alone, said Zucca. He said the Greater Cleveland area's median income is about \$70,000 per year. So, the affordable housing is targeted to families making roughly between \$23,000 and \$55,000 per year, said Zucca.

The new affordable housing would include one, two, and three-bedroom units, said Zucca. He said rents would range from \$350 a month for a single bedroom unit to \$750 per month for a three-bedroom unit. The new apartment building is projected to open sometime in 2021, said Zucca.

The first floor of the apartment building will have a 5,000 square foot multipurpose space, said Zucca. The space will house a workforce development and economic opportunity center. MetroHealth plans to partner with Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) to offer job training on the site for potential hospital employees, said Zucca. Having the Tri-C program in the new building will allow State Trained Nursing Assistants to do their training right next to the hospital, he noted. MetroHealth already has high school students from Lincoln West attending classes in the Rammelkamp building on its campus, says Zucca. He said 25 students just graduated from the program and 100% of the graduates have moved on to post-secondary education programs.

In addition to the affordable units, MetroHealth, CCH Development

and the NRP Group plan to build 100 units of market rate housing for medical students working at MetroHealth and 80 units of market rate housing available to the general public. Zucca anticipates the 100 units of housing for medical students will be filled by some of the 400 medical students working at the hospital on an annual basis. Zucca says sites for the market rate units have not yet been finalized.

Zucca says that MetroHealth transferred the ownership of the development site for the affordable apartments (its parking lot) to CCH Development Corporation. Zucca says he is on loan from MetroHealth to CCH Development Corporation where he is serving as project coordinator. CCH Development Corporation is a new development corporation (see accompanying article for more information about CCH Development and the NRP Group) which Zucca described as more of a holding company rather than a fully functioning neighborhood development corporation. Zucca says CCH has a board of trustees that meets regularly.

As part of the funding for the affordable and market rate housing planned for the Campus Transformation, Zucca says CCH Development Corporation has submitted an FHAct50 target-area application to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency for use of \$1 million in Internal Revenue Service federal tax credits. Zucca says \$1 million was the maximum amount an organization could apply for in 2019 tax credits in the target area. He says the FHAct50 program allocates \$3 million dollars in federal tax credits to the target area over a three-year period.

An article in the June 2019 issue of the *Plain Press* titled "Pilot program calls for investments to establish Clark Fulton as a mixed income neighborhood" describes the FHAct50 program as a pilot program that will use federal tax credits to create affordable housing units that will be matched one for one by market rate housing units built at the same time in the same neighborhood. The article describes the target area for the FHAct50 tax credit funding as the "Clark Fulton neighborhood 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."

Zucca says he heard that the CCH Development Corporation application for FHAct50 tax credits had been selected to move forward in an early stage of the selection process. It has not received final approval, he said. An article in the August 2019 issue of the *Plain Press* by Bruce Checefsky titled "MetroHealth holds Campus Transformation Plan community meetings" indicates that the total cost of the neighborhood development projects will be \$60 million.

In addition to the housing and the multipurpose space, Zucca noted some other amenities that MetroHealth plans for the neighborhood including wifi service for the neighborhood surrounding the hospital and parks planned for the MetroHealth campus. Long term planning, he said, envisions a 12-acre park just south of the new affordable apartments on the site of the current outpatient clinics. The site lies between MetroHealth Drive and Southpoint Drive between W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Scranton. The plan calls for the outpatient clinics to move to the current site of the Elisabeth Prentiss Center for Skilled Nursing Care further south on Scranton on the east side of the street.

Zucca says MetroHealth is working closely with CCH Development Corporation, MetroWest Development Corporation, and Councilwoman Jasmin Santana to develop a master plan for the neighborhood. He says requests for proposals to help develop the master plan have gone out. The area for the master plan he described as the entire Clark Fulton statistical planning area, plus part of the Brooklyn Centre statistical planning area north of I-71 and part of the Tremont statistical planning area west of I-71. He says one goal of the master plan is to create a mix of commercial enterprises to provide service to the community.

### Bird's Eye View

Guests at the Open House were offered visual tour of the construction site of the new hospital building led by Turner Construction Company Senior Project Manager Jeffery V. Abke. Viewing the construction site from the seventh floor of the new View Road Parking Garage, Abke pointed out the site below where

construction is underway for the new eleven floor hospital building which he said should be ready to serve its first patient in the fall of 2022. The site for the new hospital building will front on Scranton Road with Southpoint Drive to the north and Eglindale Avenue and the Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Center for Skilled Nursing Care to the South. Next to the hospital building on the east, Abke said there will be a central utility plant which will have emergency generators, boilers for steam and hot water and cooling towers. The plant contains wells to store diesel fuel. He said if the power goes out automatic feeder switches will kick in the backup system.

Abke pointed out the new View Road east of the central utility building site. The private hospital road was built by Turner Construction and allows delivery vehicles, ambulances and employees to enter the hospital from the rear on View Road while the public will use the front door on Scranton. View Road stretches from Valentine Avenue to the south, goes behind the hospital and winds around the Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Center for Skilled Nursing Care to Scranton Road. Ambulances coming from I-71 will be able to go directly to the south end of View Road and follow that to Southpoint Drive where they can access the Critical Care Pavilion. Ambulances can also enter and exit View Road via Valentine Avenue.

A drawing of the future hospital mounted on the window of the parking garage shows the new hospital building connecting with the existing Critical Care Pavilion. Once the new building is up and running plans call for the current Metro twin towers to be demolished to make way for green space. Abke says Turner Construction Company's part of the new hospital construction is budgeted at \$430 million. He said this does not include equipment and furniture that will be placed inside the hospital after construction is complete. Abke noted Turner's experience in building hospital buildings which includes several buildings for Cleveland Clinic. He talked about the importance of incorporating backup utility capability into the construction plan so that it will kick in automatically if power from the grid goes down.

## CCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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mixed-income housing that integrates community development and workforce training. This is a winning combination that creates pathways to opportunity for the entire community."

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, also in a released statement says, "The City of Cleveland and MetroHealth are making significant investments in the Clark-Fulton

neighborhood, with the goal of providing economic growth for current residents while attracting new citizens. This investment and the development of a mixed-use community aligns with my Neighborhood Transformation Initiative and builds on a shared commitment to improve quality of life and create more sustainable neighborhoods."

In addition to the area targeted by CCH Development Corporation,

several overlapping community and economic development districts are now targeting the Clark Fulton neighborhood. These include Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson Administration's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative; the neighborhood is also designated as a Federal Opportunity Zone; and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency has designated the neighborhood as an FHAct50 investment zone eligible for federal tax credits for a mix of affordable and market rate housing.

The Hispanic Business Center has been working with community partners to create La Villa Hispana along the W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor north of MetroHealth. The Metro West Community Development Organization website describes the collaboration on the project thus:

Metro West CDO, in partnership with the Hispanic Alliance, Inc., Hispanic Business Center and Northeast Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, MetroHealth, Ward 14 Councilwoman Jasmin Santana, Tremont West Development Corporation and Cleveland Neighborhood Progress continue to develop La Villa Hispana. La Villa Hispana is an enclave of Clark-Fulton and the cultural and economic hub of the Latino community in Cleveland. Conceived by community stakeholders many years ago, the initiative has developed a comprehensive plan to celebrate the diversity of our community through community development, arts and culture, and economic development.

**Editor's Note:** Jim Pelikan contributed to research for this article.



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FASHION

Want to Recreate the Latest Runway Fashions for Less? Shop Thrift!



by Silk Allen

Nothing excites me more than seeing the latest fashion trends hit the stores in September. The problem is, if you are anything like me and the new season’s fashions spark joy (Marie Kondo be damned lol) fall shopping can become a very expensive sport. So that’s where knowing the ins and outs of thrift shopping come in handy. With lots of patience and a loose plan, you can recreate looks straight from the runway, or build a closet full of fall essentials and classic pieces for less than the price of a week’s worth of Starbucks coffee. Read on as I share my top ten thrift shopping tips with you...

Go with an open mind

This is the one time that I will suggest shopping without a list. It’s a proven fact that when you have your mind set on finding a black blazer, you will find everything except for that blazer. Don’t limit yourself with a list. But, set a budget and stick to it.

Dress appropriately

Wear something that you can easily slip a shirt, dress, or skirt over, preferably a tank top and leggings or even a tee shirt and skirt. If it’s during the colder months add a duster or light layers that can be quickly removed in case fitting rooms are packed and you have to

try something on in the aisles.

Location is everything

Shop in high-end neighborhoods and you won’t be disappointed by the massive amount of designer cast-offs, vintage pieces, and expensive garments donated by people with great taste in fashion and the most stylish clothes.

Go early, and take a snack.

Thrift shopping is a sport and is to be treated as such. Get there early or you will be left with the picked through leftovers and declare it a fashion fail. Most stores open super early in the morning, especially on their sale days, so check the website or call the store to find out. Also, bring a bottle of water and some sort of granola bar, nuts or anything to fit in your bag because shopping can make you hungry.

Throw it in the cart now

Immediately claim whatever catches your eye because by the time you turn around to go back and get it- I guarantee someone will have snatched it up without a second thought. Don’t play yourself by second-guessing when you can always put the item back if it doesn’t work out.

Try on everything and think outside the box

Concern yourself with fit, not size. Sizing was different 5, 10, 15, and 20 years ago and you can’t really go with what is written on the tag. Besides, you may want that cardigan to hang in an over-sized way, or that jacket may become the perfect vest if you cut the sleeves off. If a dress has an elastic waist, with the right tailor, could potentially be a shirt and a skirt set for the price of one. Also, cotton fabrics + RIT dye = all new possibilities!

Experiment with bold prints, patterns, colors, and fabrics

What is missing from your wardrobe? If you have a closet full of solid neutrals, add pops of color with

COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

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

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**NEED IMMIGRATION HELP?** Call 216-939-3769. Immigration legal services are available through Catholic Charities at St. Augustine Towers at 7800 Detroit Avenue. Catholic Charities provides low cost immigration assistance for applications filed with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and representation in Immigration Court.

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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. Or you can call 1-833.ASPRIE2 for information on these programs.

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YOUTH

**CLARK FULTON MYCOM COALITON** is a network of youth ages 5-24 committed to creating an environment to support and foster youth success in the neighborhood. If you would like to join, contact the Regional MyCom Coordinator at 216-961-9073.

VOLUNTEERS

**GIRLTREK:** a public health movement for Black women and girls, is training 3000 neighborhood captains to hold 1,000 walks in neighborhoods around the country in 2019. To sign up to participate email [lead@girltrek.org](mailto:lead@girltrek.org).

**CASA** of Cuyahoga County, a program of Child and Family Advocates of Cuyahoga County, needs volunteers to advocate for children who have been neglected and abused. CASAs are everyday citizens who are appointed by the Court to advocate for the safety and well-being of children and represent the children’s best interests. CASAs are trained to investigate, facilitate, advocate, and monitor one or two cases at a time to help the Court make the best decision for a safe, caring, and permanent home for children involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Those interested in becoming a CASA, please visit [cfadvocates.org](http://cfadvocates.org) or call 216.443.3377 for more information.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, August 8, 2019; Waverly Elementary School, 1805 W. 57<sup>th</sup> Street: The new Waverly School is open and ready to receive K-8 students.

bright hues and prints that you can’t find in stores today. If you wear tons of black, load up with more black, but in rich textures. Scared of too much too soon? You can’t go wrong with a festive print scarf...

Check the garment thoroughly

Watch out for stains, rips, and odors that may have been set for years. Look under the arms, inside the item, check the back and inside and see what you are working with. Some stains can be removed using a mix of solutions or dry cleaning, many odors can be lifted with something as simple as vinegar and sunlight, and if you are handy with a sewing machine, or needle and thread, then a small hole or missing button won’t stop your flow.

Edit down your selection

Narrow your choices down to pieces that you can’t live without, fit you well and need no extra repairs. If it comes down to two blouses that you love, but one has a loose button--- and you have not sat down at a sewing machine since they taught

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Thursday, August 15, 2019; Ohio City Pizzeria, W. 33<sup>rd</sup> and Lorain Avenue: Ohio City Pizzeria General Manager Sean Paul brings pizzas from the kitchen out to guests.

## MEMORY LANE

continued from page 4

1950s. At W. 73<sup>rd</sup> and Lorain Avenue the site of the Social Security office was once home to West End Lumber Company. Across Lorain Avenue a little further west is Ripcho Studio at 7630 Lorain which has been taking class pictures for generations of Clevelanders. Ripcho sponsors Needs Cleveland next door to its studios where Cleveland residents can pick up gently used clothing. At W. 83<sup>rd</sup> and Lorain Avenue is the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library which has served the surrounding community and its schools for many years.

Before the freeway, Lorain Avenue used to intersect with Clark Avenue at W. 88<sup>th</sup> Street where Tony's Restaurant sat on the triangle shaped land where the two streets met. The huge Watkins furniture store sat on the south side of Lorain between W. 88<sup>th</sup> and W. 90<sup>th</sup>. That site now has new housing with Clark Avenue addresses as Clark Avenue was extended to W. 90<sup>th</sup> when the freeway was built.

Other longstanding businesses in that area of Lorain Avenue from W. 90<sup>th</sup> to West Boulevard that have disappeared include Fisher Fazio's grocery store, Michaud's, Hollo's Printing, Heyduk's Flower Shop and Famous Cleaners. Rexall Drug, Cleveland Uniform and Schindler's Fabrics are examples of businesses that have continued serving the neighborhood for many years.

In September of 2006 the West Side Community House (WSCH) moved from W. 30<sup>th</sup> and Bridge to 9300 Lorain Avenue. Former WSCH Executive Director Dawn Kolograf says WSCH was already serving the immediate neighborhood through its senior center at Simpson Methodist Church at W. 86<sup>th</sup> and Clark Avenue which WSCH had operated since 1976. Kolograf says, "Most importantly the board and staff of the C-House felt it was important to be located where the agencies' services were most needed. Once we determined that the area between West 65th and West 117th had a growing poverty rate for both families and seniors and was not served by the West Side's other settlement house, Merrick House, we started looking for either an existing building or land to build on in that area. Then councilman Jay Westbrook who was familiar with WSCH because of Simpson Senior Center suggested we look at the site at the corner of West 93rd and Lorain. Cudell Improvement had consolidated 3 parcels and was looking for either a day care center or a community center to serve the area, so it was a perfect match."

Prior to I-90, St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Parish at West Boulevard and Lorain Avenue was the largest Roman Catholic congregation on the West Side of Cleveland. The parish's school was

also large and its teams at one time so dominated the Catholic Youth Organization competitions that they were asked to start a league of their own. For many years the parish ran a football and basketball program open to children throughout the area. The basketball program still exists today. The parish sold land on the Southeast corner of West Boulevard and Lorain to make way for an A & P Store but retained parking rights on the site for their parishioners in perpetuity. The site is now a CVS Pharmacy, but the parking provision remains in the deed allowing the parish to use it for overflow parking when needed.

In 2009, when former Cleveland Bishop Richard Lennon tried to close St. Ignatius Church, parishioners, former parishioners and residents throughout the Westside rallied to save the church from closing. The successful effort was covered by the *Plain Press*.

Lorain Avenue has seen its variety of retail over the years. A Sears, Roebuck & Co. store at W. 110<sup>th</sup> Street and Lorain was followed by a strip shopping center with an assortment of shops, including, at one time, a Finast grocery store and a Blockbuster video store. The shopping center remains with a different set of tenants today.

Not far up the street, the Cleveland Christian Home for Children is one historic building on Lorain that still stands today and continues its original mission. The building at 11401 Lorain Avenue was designed by Architect J. H. MacDowell and built in 1924. The building is designated as a landmark by the Cleveland Landmark Commission.

The home was founded by the Rev. Henry Timme in 1900 when a family of children were left at the front door of his home. Reverend Timme took the children in and word of his good deed soon spread around the neighborhood that his house was a haven for all children.

Five years later, Timme would move from his home-turned-orphanage at Broadway & Aetna Avenue in Cleveland to its current location on Lorain Avenue. The new home was originally fitted to house approximately 60 children before being renovated in the early 1920's to accommodate 100. Today, the home cares for some 500 children struggling with mental illness, abuse and neglect.

Before leaving West Boulevard/Westown neighborhoods, Lorain Avenue crosses W. 117<sup>th</sup> Street, the site of the Variety Theatre now being restored for neighborhood use today. Lorain Avenue has been changing for more than 100 years and will only continue in the future. A driver of this future change will undoubtedly be the City of Cleveland's Storefront Renovation Program (SRP), which began in 2015.

The program aims to make Cleveland's various neighborhoods and their shopping districts become more aesthetically appealing and economically viable by renovating storefronts and signage.

## West Side Catholic Center's Ohio City Pizzeria offers second chances

by Colin Murnan

The West Side Catholic Center has partnered with EDWINS Leadership and Restaurant Institute to take over and run Ohio City Pizzeria. The Catholic Center had been in talks about buying the restaurant for eight to ten years, but the opportunity never came to fruition until now. On July 19<sup>th</sup>, the restaurant opened at 3223 Lorain Avenue, displaying a revamped menu and interior, complete with mellow light and a darker, more inviting atmosphere that embodied a classier look rather than the more original, old fashioned pizzeria. Despite all of the elegant changes, an even bigger, more central part of the business has changed.

The West Side Catholic Center taking over the business means that the pizzeria will not only be a place to serve great pizza, but also a place of second chances. Since 1977, according to their website (<https://www.wsccenter.org>), "the West Side Catholic Center has offered hot meals, hospitality, clothing and household goods, emergency services, advocacy, a family shelter, and a housing solutions program to those in need at no charge, regardless of religious affiliation." The Center was started in an act of compassion for those struggling in poverty in the community. Several churches came together with a plan to help these people get back on their feet. This is the first time the Center will be running a restaurant for their nonprofit. Manager of Economic Opportunities Frank Johanek understands the challenge of running a restaurant.

"Because it's new, because we're not in the restaurant business, we've sought out a partner who knew what they were doing. We partnered with EDWINS to do the training, to be our consultants for the first year."

The institute, run by CEO Brandon Chrostowski, trains formerly incarcerated individuals and helps them hone their skills and get jobs in restaurants all over Cleveland. Their website states (<https://edwin-srestaurant.org>), "We give formerly incarcerated adults a foundation in the culinary and hospitality industry while providing a support network necessary for their long-term success."

It's clear to see how motivated Chrostowski is by simply having a conversation with him. While helping out in the back kitchen of Ohio City Pizza, cutting up vegetables and dressing pizzas, he talked about his humble beginnings, being charged with a crime in his teens that could have imprisoned him for years. He got off with a light sentence and a new outlook on life, deciding to become a chef and earning degrees in both the culinary arts and business and restaurant management from The Culinary Institute of America. From there he travelled to Europe where he gained valuable experience in French kitchens. He returned to the United States and finally settled on Cleveland to start EDWINS.

Since its inception, the Institute has done impressively well at getting jobs for students of the program, with at least ninety-five percent employment after graduation. This

is the kind of success the West Side Catholic Center is looking to replicate, as they are bringing those from the Center over to the Pizzeria to help them get jump started back into the work force.

"It would be difficult to get that next job for various reasons," Frank Johanek said, "and so this gives them a chance to work, to feel good about themselves, make some money, improve their resume, and gain some valuable skills."

Even though the work is temporary, Johanek knows how important a job, even 18-35 hours a week, can be for future employers.

"We look at it as a transitional point, but roughly speaking a year, six months to a year, and if they're doing well, we can look at other options. Meanwhile, we're right next door, and they can check us out . . . we have a lot of leads here."

Johanek stressed the importance of the Center's mission, particularly in Ohio City.

"Our mission [is] really to lift those people up in the community that can often be disregarded. Especially in an area now, that has undergone such redevelopment, it's really important that the whole community be involved."

Even though Ohio City Pizzeria will bring people in for the food, it is also a place that practices compassion and responsibility for the citizens its serving.

Johanek summed it up best. "Folks deserve a second chance, and [Ohio City Pizzeria] really does give people a second chance."



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Thursday, August 15, 2019; Ohio City Pizzeria, W. 33<sup>rd</sup> and Lorain Avenue: Volunteers (L-R): Dan, Anne, Terrie, Judy, Mary and Bob from West Side Catholic Center have lunch at the Ohio City Pizzeria. West Side Catholic Center is now operating the pizzeria as a full-service restaurant and a job training center.

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