



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
 Saturday, November 2, 2019; Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) Parade of Skulls & Skeletons, W. 65<sup>th</sup> & Detroit Avenue: The Día de Muertos celebration was presented by Cleveland Public Theatre / Teatro Público de Cleveland in partnership with Héctor Castellanos Lara and Día de Muertos Ohio.

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# Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

## Working group and public meetings to review current tax abatement policy and incentives for developers

by Bruce Checefsky

Councilman Kerry McCormack believes Cleveland's tax abatement policy and incentives for developers need reform, so he organized a working group to review the existing program and recommend changes. While committed to keeping the tax abatement program, McCormack would like to see tax revisions

that conform to the changing demographics of Cleveland. Current tax incentive policies are set to expire in 2022.

Ward 15 Councilman Matt Zone, along with Councilman McCormack, supports targeted development strategies as a way to invest in struggling neighborhoods. Other members of the working group

which have been meeting since last summer include Reinvestment Fund, PFM Group Consulting, and the Greater Ohio Policy Center which will work with Leverage Development and Neighborhood Connections to conduct the policy review. Freddy Collier, Director of Cleveland City Planning Commission and Cory Riordan, Executive Director at Tremont West Development Corporation, along with several Ohio City residents, have also attended the meetings.

The city's economic development incentive program dates to 1977, when Mayor Ralph Perk gave tax abatement for a \$50 million headquarters at East Ninth Street and Euclid Avenue to National City Bank, now a part of PNC Bank, according to Crain's Cleveland. While studies indicate that site selection criteria do not show financial incentives to be the major factors in business retention or expansion, the Journal of the American Planning Association reports that only 7% of firms considered incentives as a critical location factor. Billions of dollars of abated tax revenue for the City of Cleveland has been lost since the late 70's.

The City of Cleveland's Residential Tax Abatement program continued on page 6



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
 Saturday, November 2, 2019; Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) Parade of Skulls & Skeletons, W. 65<sup>th</sup> & Detroit Avenue: A woman is dancing with joy in front of the marching musicians from El Comité Mexicano de Cleveland on this day that honors ancestors and commemorates those loved ones who have passed.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Sunday, October 27, 2019; Apparition of the Eternal Church, St. Ignatius of Antioch Church, West Boulevard at Lorain Avenue: Organist Buck McDaniel, the 2018-19 Kulas Composer Fellow at Cleveland Public Theatre, plays some of his own compositions as well as works by J.S. Bach, Olivier Messiaen, Florence Price, Nadia Boulanger, and Philip Glass.

## St. Stephen Parish celebrates 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This year, St. Stephen Parish celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> years since its founding in April of 1869. A pamphlet provided by St. Stephen Church titled *Brief History and Tour of St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church* offers some historical highlights described in this article.

"In April of 1869, Rt. Rev. Amadeus Rappe, first Bishop of Cleveland, commissioned Father Stephen Falk to establish a two-story building which would serve as both church and school for German-speaking Catholics living west of W. 44<sup>th</sup>." This action, according to the pamphlet, was necessitated by the growth in St. Mary Parish. At the time St. Mary's, which no longer exists, was located on W. 30<sup>th</sup> near Lorain Avenue.

St. Stephen parish started with about 200 families, according to the history. The first pastor was Father Casimir Reichlin and the first mass was celebrated in the new building on May 1, 1870.

As the parish continued to grow it was decided that a new church was needed. In 1873 the architectural firm of Cudell & Richardson

was commissioned to work on the present structure. The pamphlet says, "Parishioners mortgaged their own properties in order to raise the needed funds."

The present church, located at 1930 W. 54<sup>th</sup> Street, was completed in November of 1881 and was formally dedicated on November 20, 1881 by the second Bishop of Cleveland, Ret. Rev. Richard Gilmour.

The pamphlet describes the church structure as being "built entirely of stone, mainly of the best Amherst sandstone." In the interior of the church, beautiful wood carvings are dominate on the main altar, side alters and pulpit.

During a tour of the church, parishioner Evelyn Trucks pointed out some highlights. Trucks noted that before its installation the large oak pulpit was exhibited in the World's Fair held in Chicago, Illinois in 1893. She said it was amazing that the large intricately carved, wood pulpit made it to Chicago and back by train without any damage.

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## Lively Cleveland School Board meeting addresses public school facility building plan and other matters

by Chuck Hoven

The November 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) Board of Education held at East Tech High School included a protest by CMSD security personnel, testimonies about schools slated for closing or getting a reprieve from closing, and a vote

on the latest version of the CMSD Long-Term School Building Plan.

Those attending the meeting were greeted outside the building by CMSD security and peace officers holding signs and passing out fliers and protesting low wages that they say were contributing to a reduction in the number of security personal

and thus causing safety concerns in school buildings.

At the start of the meeting, the Board of Education called for a moment of silence for two CMSD alumni who recently passed away – Harrison Dillard, an East Tech graduate, and Norma Freeman, a continued on page 4

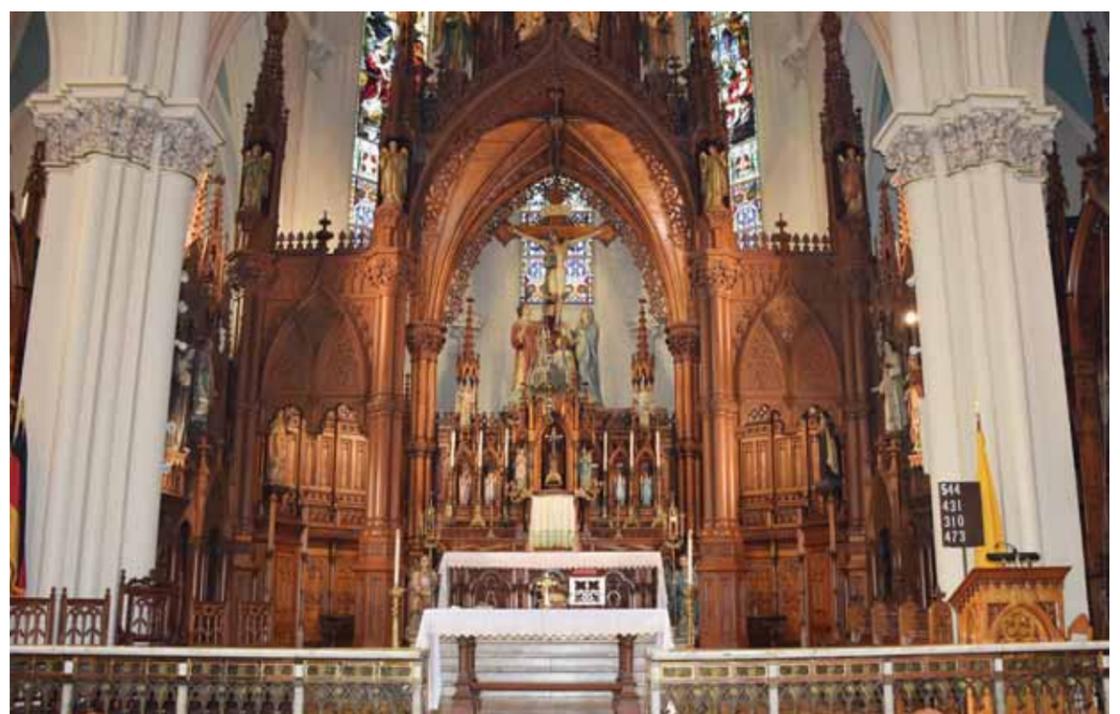


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
 Sunday, November 17, 2019; St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church, 1930 W. 54<sup>th</sup> Street: The main altar at St. Stephen's church. The altars and statues at St. Stephens were carved from oak and most were imported from Munich, Germany. The parish, which was founded in April of 1869, celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The current church, designed by the architectural firm of Cudell & Richardson was dedicated on November 20, 1881.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Thursday, October 24, 2019; The Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland's fundraiser Market After Dark, West Side Market, W. 25<sup>th</sup> & Lorain Avenue: Staff from Mod Mex on Fulton Road offer up some samples to the crowd.



The Plain Press Community Board is a listing of a variety of free activities and resources for neighborhoods served by the Plain Press. The printing of the Community Board is sponsored by Organize! Ohio through donations from readers and supporters.

**ARTS/MUSIC/THEATRE**

**BOP STOP EXHIBIT:** Local artist No Numbers' Photos of Devotion A series of photographs encompassing the artist's vision of love entitled, *Zēlos 'Devotion to What You Love'* By No Numbers. The exhibit's opening night at 2920 Detroit Avenue on December 8, 2019, from 2 to

7 pm and runs for 90 days. No Numbers, is the artistic name for Arron Bound, who is a staff photographer for the 2019 Cleveland Photo Fest, Ohio City native, and is taking a non-traditional approach to unveiling art. The opening night performers and the pieces are a reflection of the artist's understanding of love.

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**CONSUMER**

**2020 EXTERIOR PAINT PROGRAM:** Contact the City of Cleveland Community Development Department, 601 Lakeside, Room 302, for an application and income eligibility requirements. Applications are due by February 28, 2020.  
**REPORT SCAMS:** Call the Cuyahoga County Scam Squad at 216-443-SCAM (7226). Hang up if a caller threatens you with arrest or property seizure, claims to be a grandchild or loved one in trouble with the law; asks you to wire money, mail cash or pay with gift cards; if a repair person calls out of the blue and wants to "fix" your computer.

**DOES YOUR HOME HAVE A SMOKE ALARM?** If not, call the operation Save-A-Life 24-hour hotline at 216-361-5535 to apply for FREE smoke alarms.

**EDUCATION**

**MEETING ABOUT WEST SIDE HIGH SCHOOL:** Thursday, December 5 from 6-8 p.m. at Garrett Morgan High School, 4016 Woodbine Avenue. The Cleveland Metropolitan School District administration will update the community on academic program planning for two high schools within the new West Side High School campus.  
**GORDON SQUARE COMPUTER LAB:** Free classes Tuesdays from 10am to 4pm; Thursdays from 11am to 6 pm, and alternating either Friday 1-5 pm OR Saturday 9-11am. For more information or to register, call Digital Literacy Coordinator Alicia Greasby at 219-961-4242 ext. 235.

**METRO WEST COMPUTER LAB:** Free classes on Mondays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Wednesdays from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Fridays from 1-5 p.m.; and every other Saturday from 9 a.m. -11 a.m. at 3167 Fulton Road, Third Floor, Suite 303. For more information and to register call Digital Literacy Coordinator Alicia Greasby at 216-961-9073 ext. 235.

**FREE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING FOR YOUR STUDENTS:** The Red Cross is offering FREE youth disaster preparedness presentations for elementary-aged students. The 30-to-60-minute classroom-based presentations are designed for students in grades K-5. To learn more about the program or schedule a presentation contact: [John.Gareis@redcross.org](mailto:John.Gareis@redcross.org) or visit [redcross.org/youthprep](http://redcross.org/youthprep).

**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 schedule an appointment: [CWilliams@collegenowgc.org](mailto:CWilliams@collegenowgc.org) 216.635.0182.

**FREE COURSES:** Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) Aspire offers free courses to help you improve your academic skills, prepare for the workforce, work towards High School Equivalent

(HSE)/GED Test Preparation, and prepare for a job, college or training. High school graduates are welcome if they meet testing requirements. Register online on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of each month at [www.tri-c.edu/aspire](http://www.tri-c.edu/aspire). (If the 15<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> is on a weekend or holiday, registration will be on the following weekday. You must attend orientation to enroll.) For more information and a complete list of classes and resources visit: [www.tri-c.edu/aspire](http://www.tri-c.edu/aspire).

**WORKFORCE 360°:** Do you need your GED or High School Diploma? Are you 18 to 24 years old? Are you a resident of Cuyahoga County and eligible to work in the United States? If so, OhioGuidestone offers a program for you. The program includes: paid training; GED Assistance; help creating a resume and preparing for interviews; financial literacy training; leadership training; transportation assistance; help finding a job; help with healthcare, child care, housing, food assistance, and legal needs; help with additional education; Occupational Training in customer service, hospitality, culinary, and health care; support for one year following program completion. Orientations held every Tuesday at 10 a.m. For more information or to sign up call 440-260-6813 or email [Nicole.Buonigiorno@OhioGuidestone.org](mailto:Nicole.Buonigiorno@OhioGuidestone.org) or visit [Workforce360.org](http://Workforce360.org), 3235 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

**LEARN TO SPEAK ENGLISH FOR FREE:** Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) Aspire offers English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE) courses for free. Register online on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of each month at [www.tri-c.edu/aspire](http://www.tri-c.edu/aspire). (If the 15<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> is on a weekend or holiday, registration will be on the following weekday. You must attend orientation to enroll.) For more information and a complete list of classes and resources visit: [www.tri-c.edu/aspire](http://www.tri-c.edu/aspire).

**EMPLOYMENT**

**WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT JOBS PROGRAM:** The program runs from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, Monday thru Friday for a period of eight weeks. All jobseekers are guaranteed job offers in the area of their interest and may exit the program prior to the eight weeks upon accepting an employment opportunity. We assist with obtaining childcare vouchers and provide childcare in the interim. We assist with bus tickets for all SNAP eligible individuals. Work clothes, interview clothes and all supplies needed for class are provided for free. A free lunch is provided after class. Those individuals who are interested or need additional hours for SNAP will have a choice of two exploratory introductions to either FOOD SERVICE or MANUFACTURING. Question or registration.....call Frank Johaneck 216-631-4741 ext. 167

**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**

**THE PLASTIC REDUCTION WORKING**  
continued on page 7

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## A XMAS CUENTO REMIX

BY MAYA MALAN-GONZALEZ

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Please call between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

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## Issues Cleveland Public Power customers face when applying for assistance to avoid shutoffs

by Delaney Jones & Jacie Jones

This article is the first in a series based on issues that came out of the Cleveland End Poverty Now Coalition's October 17 public hearing about utility shutoffs through Cleveland Public Power (CPP). End Poverty Now is a coalition of 22 grassroots groups that work to address issues of poverty in Cleveland communities.

This first article focuses on the issues that customers face when applying to receive payment assistance when they cannot afford their bill. Issues to be addressed in future articles include: lack of due process before shutoffs, inability to make affordable payment plans, lack of notice about being shut off, electricity being turned off for people with medical issues, and an over 50% surcharge on customers' bills called the "Energy Adjustment Charge", the purpose of which has yet to be thoroughly explained by CPP.

While CPP states that assistance programs are available, these programs are often difficult to access, inadequate, or not available. The system of identifying where to receive assistance itself is difficult to navigate; much of the information is difficult to find.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

A part of the HEAP program, the Home Energy Assistance winter crisis program (also known as Emergency HEAP), is a one-time benefit of up to \$550 to be used in emergency situations where customers are faced with disconnection. When we contacted HEAP to see first-hand what it is like to try to apply for HEAP assistance, we found it almost impossible. Each of the many

times that calls were made, the calls either failed, or we were directed to a voicemail stating that there are "currently no appointment slots".

Catholic Charities, another source of assistance listed on CPP's website, is also not a realistic source of assistance for customers. When we spoke to a Catholic Charities representative, it became clear that they rarely are able to provide the sort of assistance that CPP customers need to prevent shutoff. Though Catholic Charities does provide one-time emergency assistance capped at \$250, this is rarely enough to pay the full amount that struggling CPP customers need to prevent shutoffs.

Other potential sources of assistance do exist: the office of Veterans Affairs does provide temporary assistance to Veterans specifically, and the Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) program provides temporary assistance to families in poverty who have at least one dependent.

However, finding potential sources of assistance was a difficult process even for the two of us who spent hours researching, and who have easy access to phones and internet. For low income customers struggling to pay their bills, finding reliable assistance that they need to keep their power on seems unrealistic.

Even if customers were able to access funds through HEAP, Catholic Charities, or other sources, often the programs provide one-time assistance that in many cases does not even provide enough to prevent their disconnection in the first place.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

Thursday, October 24, 2019; The Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland's fundraiser Market After Dark, West Side Market, W. 25<sup>th</sup> & Lorain Avenue: Ann LoParo of Annie's Signature Sweets talks to a customer who is trying one of her pastries.

## Ward 3 Democratic Club of Cleveland holds November meeting at Tremont Pointe

by Bruce Checefsky

Joseph Rider, Ward 3 Democratic Club President, was at the Cleveland Democratic Club meeting held at Tremont Pointe on November 19, 2019. Patrick Mahoney, Chairperson of Precinct I, was there. Political candidates Joy Kennedy for Domestic Relations Court and Lisa Forbes for Judge, 8<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals, were there, too. But no one else showed up on the cold rainy night. Rider wasn't discouraged.

"I'm here to promote the Democratic

Party agenda," he said to the near empty room. "I'm doing everything I can do to get the word out. I'm hoping to add more information on Facebook and other social media platforms."

Rider was selected by Councilman Kerry McCormack to represent Ward 3 in September 2018 after serving on the Central Committee. Mahoney became chairperson of the downtown area known as Precinct I in May 2018, although he's been a volunteer for many years including working on Councilman Mc-

Cormack's election campaign in 2017.

The Cuyahoga County Democratic Party consists of precinct committee members elected in the primaries by the registered Democrats of each precinct in the county. Committee members make up the County Central Committee, who in turn elected the party Chair and 400 of the 750-member Executive Committee; the remaining 350 members of the Executive Committee are appointed by the

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, November 17, 2019; Good Tidings, St. Stephen's Church, 1930 W. 54<sup>th</sup> Street: Members of the Forest City Singers sing the compositions of Franz Schubert, David Dickau, J.S. Bach as well as a variety of arrangements of Christmas music. Forest City Singers is a 15- member choral group which sings in various churches, temples and in community choruses throughout the Greater Cleveland area. The group is led by founder and director Virginia Wieland-Mast and accompanied by pianist Joseph Kolecki.

## ST. STEPHEN

continued from page one

Trucks pointed with pride to the stained-glass windows in the church and presented the *Plain Press* reporter with a large post card that contained the image of Christ at the Last Supper from one of the stained-glass windows. Trucks also noted that on the high altar, the person standing at the foot of the cross is St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, for whom the church is named.

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION

continued from page one

graduate of John Adams.

CMSD Chief Executive Officer Eric Gordon said Harrison Dillard, an Olympic champion, was the world's fastest man in 1948 and the world's best hurdler in 1952. Dillard also served as business manager for the Cleveland Board of Education for many years.

In memory of Norma Freeman, CEO Eric Gordon offered the school district's condolences to Don Freeman who was present at the Board meeting. Gordon noted Norma Freeman's long history of involvement with education in Cleveland which included teaching health education in the Cleveland City School District and the Cleveland Health Education Museum where she became Director of Curriculum Implementation. Gordon noted Norma Freeman's

involvement with the Cleveland Education Committee and the Committee for Social Justice. Norma Freeman and her husband, Don Freeman, have been a consistent presence at Cleveland Board of Education meetings for the past half century. CEO Gordon called Norma Freeman "a constant advocate for what's right."

### Building Plan

The Board of Education proposed plan up for a vote that evening was passed in its entirety without any additional changes. The plan called for the consolidation of Clark and Walton schools into one school with a new school on the site of the current Clark School on Clark Avenue. The plan also calls for a new school for Marion Seltzer at W. 98<sup>th</sup> just north of Madison and the renovation of Gallagher School at W. 65<sup>th</sup> and Franklin. The plan calls for a new school for Lincoln West High

School as well that will serve both the Lincoln West Global Studies and the Lincoln West Health and Science programs.

Under the plan, the Glenville campus will be used to consolidate MLK High School and Glenville High School programming. East Tech would be used as a campus to consolidate New Tech East, East Tech, Washington Park and Jane Addams programming. The John F. Kennedy campus would be used to consolidate new JFK programming with that of Whitney Young programming.

Four elementary schools would close on the East Side: Willow, Iowa-Maple, Michael R. White and Case. The Design Lab High School program would be phased out.

The district plan notes that there would be no change in a number of elementary schools that had been under discussion as for possible closing, rebuilding or new construction. Those elementary schools where there will be no change under the plan are: Kenneth Clement Boys Leadership Academy, Valley View Boys Leadership Academy, Tremont Montessori, Dike School of the Arts, Bolton, Denison, Charles A. Mooney, and Douglas MacArthur Girls Leadership Academy.

Collinwood High School was granted an additional year for neighborhood residents and stakeholders to come up with a plan that will attract more students to the school.

New Tech West's teachers and students made a convincing argument at community meetings that the school should remain open because of its academic quality and the lack of options that would allow for the school to function in a different location. The final plan calls for New Tech West High School to remain in its current location.

While there are currently no funds to build or renovate any additional buildings, the plan notes that future funding, if it materializes, could be used for new, consolidated K-8 schools for Dike/Bolton and Denison/Mooney; and new school buildings for Tremont Montessori and Douglas MacArthur. A new high school for the Northeast side is also listed as a possible use for new funding.

In the public participation portion of the meeting a number of people spoke out about the CMSD's plan for its school buildings. Ward 8 City Council Representative Michael Polensek thanked the Board of Education for the one-year reprieve granted to Collinwood High School. The initial plan presented by the administration to the school board called for Collinwood students to move

to Glenville High School as part of a three-school merger.

Polensek while welcoming the reprieve, said one year was not enough. He called for at least two years be allowed for the community to work with the school district to develop new curriculum for Collinwood. He said there were 15 K-8 schools in the neighborhood, but students were not choosing to continue their education at Collinwood because of lack of programming. He said Collinwood is not working as a general-purpose high school. "There has to be something to attract students," said Polensek.

Ward 12 City Council Representative Anthony Brancatelli made a passionate plea for the Cleveland Board of Education to keep Washington Park Environmental Academy open at its current location in Slavic Village. Brancatelli asked for five months for community leaders in the Slavic Village neighborhood to come up with a plan to keep the high school open as a specialty school. He said the school prepared students for jobs in animal care and environmental science and the school is more than 100% occupied with no vacant seats. Brancatelli submitted letters of support for the retooling of the school from leaders of Third Federal Savings and Loan, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland, Slavic Village Development, University Settlement, and the Ohio Environmental Council.

Four students from Washington Park also pleaded with the Board of Education to keep their high school open in the Slavic Village neighborhood. The students said they surveyed fellow students and reported that a number of students said they would leave the district rather than move with the school to its new home at East Tech. The students reported that 42% of students reported concerns about safety in moving to East Tech.

Former City Council Representatives Jeff Johnson and Zach Reed also spoke to the Board about school closings and other matters. Johnson said, "East Side schools are dying because of your inability to compete with other schools. You have to do better. You have to do better than just how much it costs."

There was a passionate plea to keep Iowa Maple open. Concerns were expressed about the lack of schools in Ward 7 due to schools closings.

James Pelikan spoke of the school board's effort to balance between what citizens want and what is needed. He praised the board and administration for offering data at community meetings to support their decisions and for listening **continued on page 5**

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 Corner of W.115

## WARD 3 DEMOCRATIC CLUB

continued from page 3

Chair. The Executive Committee is the decision-making body of the party and formally meets twice a year to conduct official business, according to information published on their website.

The Executive Committee will meet on December 19<sup>th</sup> to endorse candidates for the March 2020 primary elections.

"This town is all about its politicians," said Rider. "We have a population that is 1/3 the size of some other cities but we have more council-people in Cleveland than San Diego with a population of more than 1.5 million."

There are 17 council members representing the 17 wards of the City of Cleveland. Each ward has approximately 25,000 people. Philadelphia consists of ten members elected by district and seven members elected at-large for a population of 1.52 million; Houston has 11 elected from council districts and five at-large for a 2.1 million population.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

continued from page 4

to residents' concerns. Pelikan countered some of the arguments being made by City Council representatives and former council representatives that the school building plan favored the West Side of Cleveland. Pelikan noted that more new schools had previously been built on the East Side, and the district was catching up on the West Side. He also noted "neighborhoods have changed, and we have to make adjustments."

### Other Issues

In other matters a longtime school district volunteer called for an effort to get parents more involved by bringing back Parent Teacher Associations (PTA's) to the schools.

There was a call for the end of tax abatements and Mayoral control of the school system.

A student from the Cleveland School of Architecture and Design spoke of being sexually assaulted at the school and the failure of administrators to allow for a safe environment at the school.

A parent of a Project Act student at Sunbeam school spoke of her daughter being upset about a failing grade she received and the degrading way the principal spoke to her when she requested extra credit work be sent home so her daughter could make up for the failure.

Don Freeman asked CEO Eric Gordon if he had followed up with Academic Superintendent Paul Hoover concerning a problem in the Redesign Schools where administrators in the schools were creating obstacles to Model Lead Teachers playing their intended role in implementing the redesign model. CEO Gordon promised to get back to Freeman with a response.

"I love Cleveland," said Mahoney. "I'm all about Cleveland development. I think the best Cleveland is where everyone does well. I see politics as a way to get to that. Whatever I can do, perhaps it's voter turnout, which we've done in the past with no political affiliation, to promote Cleveland and efforts that benefit the entire city."

Lisa Forbes, a business litigator and partner at Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, is running for Judge 8<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals currently held by Judge Raymond C. Headen, an appointment of former Gov. John Kasich. Forbes received her J.D. summa cum laude from Case Western Reserve University School of Law where she was a member of the Order of the Coif and the executive notes editor of the Case West-

ern Reserve Law Review. She received her B.S. from Cornell University. With 27 years of experience practicing law in Cuyahoga County, Forbes believes the Court of Appeals is the last stop for justice. Fairness and justice require a lot more than understanding the law, according to her.

"I understand the law, but I also have the empathy and compassion born of years and years of active involvement in our community to guide me to just and fair decisions," said Forbes. "I volunteer election after election to make sure people can vote through voter protection programs. We all need to pay attention to the issue. It's not a partisan issue, it's a right to vote issue."

"I have the experience in the community and courts to make the right decision," she added.

continued on page 6

**Merry Christmas!  
Our Neighborhood Churches  
Welcome you!**



## Calvary Reformed Church

1918 W. 65<sup>th</sup> ST., 44102 | (216) 961-4271

[www.calvary-cleveland.com](http://www.calvary-cleveland.com) and on Facebook

**December 1<sup>st</sup>:** Advent Kickoff w/ Art & Lunch, 12 p.m.  
**December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Advent Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
**December 24<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas Eve Talent Show, 6:30 p.m.

## Saint Ignatius Of Antioch Church

10205 Lorain Avenue (at West Boulevard)

216-251-0300 • [SIOA.WECONNECT.COM](http://SIOA.WECONNECT.COM)

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

### ADVENT

Advent Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration - Friday, December 1, 7:00 pm

Advent Lessons and Carols - Sunday, December 16, 7:00 pm

Quire Cleveland Concert including Renaissance settings

of the "O" Antiphons - Friday, December 20, 7:30 pm

### CHRISTMAS SEASON

Christmas Eve Mass - 5:00 pm

Christmas Midnight Mass - 12:00 am (Full Choir, Handbells, Instruments)

Christmas Morning Mass - 11:00 am

Holy Family Vigil (28 December) - 5:00 pm

Holy Family Sunday (29 December) - 9:00 am and 11:00 am

May the Savior of the world

bless your family with His Holy Peace this Christmas



## St. Augustine Church

2486 West 14<sup>th</sup> St. - 216-781-5530

*Special Children's Eve Liturgy*  
welcoming especially for deaf and disabled children  
4:00 p.m.

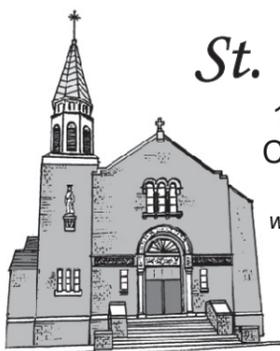
*Christmas Eve Vigil Mass*  
5:30 p.m.

*Midnight Mass*  
12:00 a.m.

*Christmas Day*

8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

All services will be signed for the deaf



## St. Barbara Church

1505 Denison Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

216 661-1191

[www.tinyurl.com/SaintBarbara](http://www.tinyurl.com/SaintBarbara)

### HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

**Tuesday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve**  
4:30 p.m. English, 10:00 p.m. English/Polish

**Wednesday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day**  
9:00 a.m. English, 11:00 a.m. Polish

**Tuesday, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve**  
4:30 p.m. English

**Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020, New Year's Day**  
9:00 a.m. English, 11:00 a.m. Polish



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, November 2, 2019; Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) Parade of Skulls & Skeletons, W. 65<sup>th</sup> & Detroit Avenue: One of many marchers in the Parade of Skulls & Skeletons, demonstrating the elaborate preparation that many of those marching have brought to this local festival each year for the past fifteen years.

## HISTORIC ST. ROCCO CHURCH

The oldest Italian parish on Cleveland's Westside

3205 Fulton Road, Cleveland OH 44109 • Ph: 216-961-8331

**Come worship with us!**

### MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekdays: Mon-Fri. 6:45am, 8:45am & 6:30pm

Saturdays: 6:45am, 8:45am & 4:00pm

Sundays: 7:30am, 9:30am & 12:00pm

High Latin Mass every first Sunday of the month at 12:00pm

Bi-lingual Mass: Italian/English, every third Sunday of the month at 12:00pm

Confessions: Saturday 3:00-4:00pm & Sundays before the 9:30am & 12:00pm

### Holiday Schedule

CONFESSIONS: Mon., December 23<sup>rd</sup> 5:30pm- 6:30pm / 7:00pm-8:00pm  
Tues., December 24<sup>th</sup> 3:00-4:00pm / 11:30pm - 12:00am

### MASSSES:

CHRISTMAS EVE: December 24<sup>th</sup>: 4:00pm, 11:30pm Organ Concert

MIDNIGHT MASS: 12:00am

CHRISTMAS DAY: December 25<sup>th</sup>: 7:30am & 12:00pm

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE: December 31<sup>st</sup>: 6:30pm  
- concluding with Benediction and singing the TeDeum

JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>: 7:30am, 9:30am & 12:00pm

## ST. JOHN CANTIUS CHURCH

906 College Avenue  
216-781-9095

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. .... English

11:30 p.m. .... Concert Choir  
(Polish & English)

12:00 Midnight... Bi-Lingual

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>

9:30 a.m. .... Polish

11:30 a.m. .... English

## St. Malachi Parish

West 25th & Detroit Ave.  
Cleveland 44113

### CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!

#### • MASS SCHEDULE •

**December 24**  
4:30PM & 10PM

**December 25**  
9:00 AM & 11:30 AM

**December 31**  
5:30 PM

**January 1**  
10:00 AM

## IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

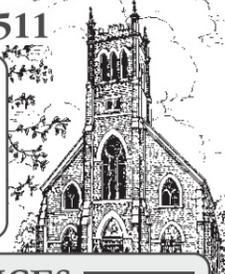
2928 Scranton Rd. • 216-781-9511

### SUNDAY SERVICES:

German service..... 9:00 am

English service.....10:30 am

*Serving God's People Since 1880*



### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve: ... German service 7:30 pm

English service 9:30 pm

Christmas Day: ... 10:00 am combined

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

## Franklin Circle Christian Church

1688 Fulton Road  
216-781-8232

[www.FranklinCircleChurch.org](http://www.FranklinCircleChurch.org)

**Sunday**  
**10:30 Service**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**Service**  
**7:00 PM**

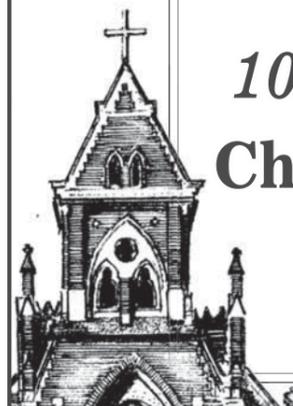




PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, November 2, 2019; Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) Parade of Skulls & Skeletons, W. 65<sup>th</sup> & Detroit Avenue: Walkers on stilts join in the festivities.

## TAX ABATEMENT

continued from page one

is the temporary elimination of 100% of the increase in real estate property tax that results from certain eligible improvements on eligible residential/housing projects. It is available to stimulate investment in new development or redevelopment of residential housing in the City of Cleveland. The length or term of abatement is 15 years at 100% of the dollar amount by which the eligible new construction or remodeling activities increased the assessed market value of the property.

The City of Cleveland has been declared an Enterprise Zone and allows for Tax Abatements in all neighborhoods, except Downtown, giving way for investors and developers to make more money and create opportunity in an otherwise declining urban environment.

"When I started at City Council three and half years ago, the conversation around balanced growth had already been happening in the community. We saw a lot of new development in the neighborhoods and for a city that's lost half of its population that is not necessarily a bad thing," said McCormack. "What became very clear to me is that the city was selling Land Bank lots for

\$200 to build \$400,000 homes. Is this the best public policy we have?"

The City of Cleveland's Land Reutilization (Land Bank) Program hasn't been successful in developing middle market housing. In response to the problem, Councilman McCormack froze the sale of Land Bank properties until a plan for developing more affordable housing is put into place. Despite the Land Bank failure, Tax Abatement as a tool for incentive investment has been very successful at spurring growth, according to Councilman McCormack.

"We've come to the point where the Tax Abatement policy has to evolve," said McCormack. "That's just smart policy. Tremont and Ohio City are not the same neighborhoods that existed twenty or thirty years ago. Our economic tools for housing shouldn't be the same tools we used back then."

After meeting with the Land Bank, Enterprise, Cleveland Housing Network, Neighborhood Housing Services, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, MetroWest Development and other community development corporations, Councilman McCormack brought the conversation to the Mayor's "Red Room". He realized that he needed to frame the conversation with concrete data on housing sales

## WARD 3 DEMOCRATIC CLUB continue from page 5

Cuyahoga County Eighth Appellate District is the largest and one of the busiest appellate courts in Ohio. Randomly assigned, its twelve judges sit on three-judge panels. Weekly, nine or more cases are allocated to each panel for review. Each judge reads the briefs filed by the parties, reviews the lower court record, and with the aid of legal staff, conducts research on the issues presented. Judge 8<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals is a six-year term beginning January 2021.

Joy Kennedy is a public defender for Cuyahoga County and candidate for Judge Domestic Relations Court vacated by Judge Rosemary Grdina Gold. A lifelong Democrat, Kennedy served on the Democratic Party Executive Committee

and served on many campaigns. With over 25-years of experience as a social worker working with families and children, she provided individual and group counseling with individuals from infant to the elderly. Kennedy received her J.D. from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University. She also holds a Master of Social Work and Bachelor of Social Work.

"I worked in Washington DC with the juvenile teenagers. When they ran away, I had to get them. When they were in crisis, I had to help them with their issues of reunification with their families. I had to go to the court with them and provide a report to the attorney at the time. The judges didn't really care what I had to say (as a social worker). They wanted to hear from the lawyer. I felt that if I went back to school and became a lawyer, the

judge would listen to me."

"The courts need someone with compassion, someone that works hard and brings a diverse background with them," said Kennedy before leaving to attend another community meeting. "If you've never worked with people directly, you won't know what they're going through. I've sat next to individuals charged with the worst offenses imaginable ... I've done that."

"Success in the courts looks like well-reasoned decisions that offer guidance, that's legally sound, not only to the parties but also to the broader community at large," Forbes commented when asked what success in the courts looks like. "Apply the law to the facts."

The next Ward 3 Democratic Club meeting is scheduled for January 2020.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, November 2, 2019; Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) Parade of Skulls & Skeletons, W. 65<sup>th</sup> & Detroit Avenue: These marchers don traditional Aztec ceremonial dress. A press release from Cleveland Public Theatre says "the Día de los Muertos holiday has its origins in the Aztec rituals of Mexico and other indigenous tribes of Latin America."

and displacement. The Cleveland Foundation provided funds to hire Reinvestment Fund from Columbus, a company founded in 1985 to identify the best investment approaches for improving the quality and value of local real estate markets and, in turn, strengthening communities, to take a closer look at the economic development data.

Displacement pressure is just one of several results of economic incentives like tax abatement programs especially in Ohio City, Tremont, and Gordon Square. The data reveals overall the city continues to decline but there are hot spots mainly on the near west side. Red lining and systemic racism contribute to the Cleveland's decline when it comes to housing initiatives.

"There are areas of the city where the soil isn't fertile for investment in growth," McCormack said. "That is the real cancer. The problem is appraisals, red lining or ability of existing homeowners to get a mortgage. Tax abatement is needed but it's not the problem. It's more about foundational economic inequities."

"County appraisers need to understand neighborhoods like Slavic Village and Hough when assessing values. New construction homes are critical for financing of new housing investment for areas of the city that don't have a private market."

Councilman McCormack does not advocate for removal of the current tax abatement program. He would rather see the abatement program tailored and nuanced to fit new or subsidized housing. When it comes to new single-family housing, he supports the abatement but not for homes in the \$350,000 - \$450,000 range.

Educating the public on tax abatement policies and tools for market rate development in the high-pressure areas might help change the public perception that tax abatement results in rising property taxes for longtime homeowners.

"People feel overtaxed and don't understand abatement policy," said John Plecnik, Associate Professor of Law at Cleveland State University. Professor Plecnik is an expert on tax abatement policy and currently serves as Vice President of Council & Councilman-at-Large for the City of Willoughby Hills.

"They're missing the point," he said. "You offer abatement to bring opportunity to the city."

Some critics of the program argue that rising property values and increased taxes are a result of the tax abatement program. Councilman McCormack feels that's a flawed argument.

"We know that when you have tax abatement, you're abating the improvements on the land. You're still paying the tax value on the land. We hemorrhage money taking care of derelict properties in the City of Cleveland. We can increase the value of the property by increasing the value of the structure," said McCormack.

"Tons of money will be poured into the city coffers once those properties are off abatement. We have to be smart with the abatement tool. Overall, property taxes have increased in places like Ohio City and Tremont. Does it make sense for the market reinvestment to stay at 15-year at 100%? I would argue no."

Kaela Geschke, Community Network Manager at Neighborhood Connections, established in 2003 by the Cleveland Foundation,

and one of the largest community building programs in the country that invests in resident-led projects in Cleveland and East Cleveland, is lead administrator for community involvement on the residential tax abatement policy discussion. Neighborhood Connections is responsible for the community engagement component of the study initiated to help people develop skills, so they could advocate for themselves.

Neighborhood Connections has trained 12 facilitators to learn about tax abatement policy and current research, and develop facilitation skills, which will be used doing interviews with residents across the city. Listening sessions are schedule in various locations in November and December. Facilitators will be on hand to listen and ask questions, which will include the effects of tax abatement policy on the community and what residents would like to see in the future.

Once the community information is consolidated, Neighborhood Connections will write a chapter for the final report devoted to resident voices. Their report will be included with the overall study presented to Cleveland City Council in January 2020.

"This is an opportunity to share information and compare Cleveland to other cities. I hope residents feel they are heard, and their experiences are taken seriously. We're optimistic that our work can be used in other polices as they come up for renewal and influence overall equitable community strategy for citizens to step up and have their voices heard on a city level," said Geschke. "We will hold two large community follow-up meetings after

continued on page 7

## Someone owe you Money?



**Cleveland Small Claims Court  
Accepts cases up to \$6,000.  
You Don't Need a Lawyer  
Details at**

[www.clevelandmunicipalcourt.org](http://www.clevelandmunicipalcourt.org)

Click on Civil Division > Small claims

**Earle B. Turner  
Cleveland Clerk of Courts  
(216) 664-4860**

**COMMUNITY BOARD**

continued from page 2

**GROUP** will be meeting on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, 4750 W. 131<sup>st</sup> Street in Garfield Heights. Diane Bickett, Executive Director of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, will give us an overview of the marketing and education campaign for the County's bag ban.

**FESTIVALS**

**WINTERTIDE AT GORDON SQUARE:** a free, all-ages, arts-infused festival returning to the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood 2-6pm on Saturday, December 14, 2019. Presented by Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization (DSCDO) in collaboration with Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT), this event mixes holiday merriment with artistic wonder. Main stage, fire pits, and beer garden are at West 65th Street and Detroit Avenue. The free Kid Zone at Near West Theatre includes hands-on activities and photos with Santa, and a free trolley whisks you to **Cleveland Bazaar's** handmade holiday market at 78th Street Studios and back. Visit [dscdo.org](http://dscdo.org) for festival updates and map (coming soon). Share with #WINTERTIDE, and follow @detroitshoreway and @CPTCLE on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**FOOD**

**CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY** branches now serve free meals to children age 18 and under Monday thru Friday from 3:30 -4:30 p.m.  
**FREE FRESH PRODUCE:** Joseph Gallagher School, 6601 Franklin Blvd., Thursday, December 5, 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
**FREE FRESH PRODUCE:** Marion C. Seltzer School, 1468 W. 98<sup>th</sup> Street: 4-6 p.m. on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.  
**FREE FRESH PRODUCE:** Calvary Reformed Church, 1918 W. 65, Saturday, December 7 from 9:30 a.m. - Noon.  
**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 Tuesday December 17 at the Outpatient Pavilion (first floor, near pharmacy) at MetroHealth Medical Center, 2500 MetroHealth Drive  
**FREE FRESH PRODUCE:** Cudell Recreation Center, Thursday, December 19 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
**FREE FRESH PRODUCE:** Villa Mercedes, 1331 W. 70<sup>th</sup>, Friday, December 20, 1-3 p.m.  
**FREE FRESH PRODUCE:** New Beginning Ministries, 2060 W. 65<sup>th</sup> Street, Saturday December 21, 10 a.m. until noon.  
**GREATER CLEVELAND FOOD BANK:**

**TAX ABATEMENT**

continued from page 6

the report is released in late January 2020 and invite the public to come up with solutions together."  
 Neighborhood Connections final report will be available on their website for public review. For more information call Neighborhood Connections at 216-361-0042 or link to <http://w.neighborhoodgrants.org>  
 "We're all about transparency," added Geschke. "We want people to be heard."  
**Listening Sessions: Tax Abatement Policy**

- 12/3 from 6-8PM @ Neighborhood Housing Services, 5700 Broadway Ave.
- 12/4 from 6-8PM @ Gunning Rec. Center, 16700 Puritas Ave.
- 12/10 from 6-8PM @3rd Space Action Lab, 1464 E 105th St.
- 12/11 from 6-8PM @ Cornucopia Place, 7201 Kinsman Rd. Suite 103b
- 12/12 from 6-8PM @ LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland, 6705 Detroit Ave.
- 12/17 from 6-8PM @ Urban Community School Gathering Room, 4909 Lorain Ave.
- 12/18 from 6-8PM @ Pilgrim Church, 2592 W. 14th St.

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**

**OVERCOMING TRAUMA: Getting Past the Past,** Join Us for an Evening of Art and Healing Dialogue. Wednesday, December 11, 2019 5:30-7:00pm at Riverview Welcome Center, 1701 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street, RSVP: <https://events.clevelandclinic.org/detail-page.htm?event=6314>. Questions Janice [gonzali5@ccf.org](mailto:gonzali5@ccf.org) 216-696-7223

**WANT TO STOP SMOKING:** Information on how to stop and where to get help can be found at: [www.healthycle.org/ditchtobacco](http://www.healthycle.org/ditchtobacco).

**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE:** Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or visit [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org). The Lifeline is FREE, confidential and always available.

**IMMIGRATION**

**IMMIGRATION DETAINEES IN NORTH-EAST OHIO:** If you need legal assistance with an immigration matter and cannot afford an attorney, Legal Aid may be able to help. Call the Legal Aid's Detention Project at 888-817-3777.

**HOLIDAY PARTY**

**COFFEE WITH THE COPS AND SANTA:** Third Annual Holiday Party, Bring the kids to meet Santa & his beautiful elves and receive a gift and warm cup of cheer. Enjoy music, caroling, conversation and holiday cheer with our community leaders, caregivers, cops, councilpersons. Thursday, December 12, 2019 10:30 am- 12:30 pm. Lutheran Hospital Cafeteria 1730 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street, CLE 44113 Questions Janice [gonzali5@ccf.org](mailto:gonzali5@ccf.org) 216-696-7223.

**LIBRARIES**

**REIMAGINING JEFFERSON BRANCH:** Offer your input on Tuesday, December 3 or Friday December 13 from 4-7 pm

**MEETINGS**

**CUDELL IMPROVEMENT BOARD MEETING:** 9821 Lorain Avenue, Tuesday, December 3, 5:45 p.m.

**FIRST DISTRICT POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING:** Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at St. Ignatius of Antioch School Cafeteria, 10205 Lorain Avenue.

**SECOND DISTRICT POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING:** Tuesday, December 10, 6:30 p.m. at Applewood Center gym, 3518 W. 25<sup>th</sup>. (Enter gym via Daisy Avenue entrance).

**POLITICS**

**BREAK THE GRIP OF THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM:** Labor and Community for an Independent Political Party, Saturday, December 7, 2019, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. at Middleburg Heights Branch of the Cuyahoga County Library, 16699 Bagley Road. 5-8 p.m. Dinner with speakers at the Brew Garden, 18590 Bagley Road, Middleburg Heights. Topics will include

Medicare for All, Endless regime change wars and deadly sanctions vs. international working-class solidarity, forced migration and deportation. Sponsored by the Labor Education & Arts Project, in cooperation with Labor and Community for an Independent Party.

**RECREATION**

**LINCOLN WEST SCHOOL AS A NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE,** 3202 W. 30th: Free night recreation and community programming. Open 6-8 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on days when school is in session thru March of 2020. Free space for community groups for meetings and extracurricular programs. Programs available for residents include: arts & crafts, basketball open gym, batting cage, cooking class, indoor track, Near West Rec, soccer, tutoring, weight room & Zumba. For more information visit [neighborhoodleadership.org](http://neighborhoodleadership.org). Site coordinator is Michelle Cruz. For more information visit [www.neighborhoodleadership.org](http://www.neighborhoodleadership.org).

**NEAR WEST RECREATION** will have registration for basketball for youths ages 7-17 thru December 18<sup>th</sup>. The league will run from January 13 thru March 13. For more information email Keri Palma at [kpalma@ohiocity.org](mailto:kpalma@ohiocity.org).

**SERVICES**

**RENEE JONES EMPOWERMENT CENTER,** 3764 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200.: Restoring the lives of Human Trafficking Victims through holistic services and advocacy. Services include therapy, case management, life skills, employment assistance, weekly support groups and more. Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:30-8:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. To make an appointment call 216-417-0823. For more information visit: [www.rjecempower.org](http://www.rjecempower.org) or email: [rjones@rjecempower.org](mailto:rjones@rjecempower.org).

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER'S LATINA PROJECT** offers culturally sensitive services that take into consideration the realities of the Latino life. Services provided in Spanish and free of charge include information about legal rights & Justice System Advocacy, personal assistance & escort, counseling services, weekly Spanish-speaking Support Group/child-care and more. For more information call 216-229-2420 or visit [www.dvccac.org](http://www.dvccac.org).

**VOLUNTEERS**

**BILINGUAL TUTORS NEEDED FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS TAKING THE GED,** Tuesdays & Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Seeds of Literacy, 3104 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street. Seeds of Literacy offers FREE one-to-one GED tutoring to adults in Cleveland. In association with Esperanza, Seeds of Literacy has expanded its services to include tutoring for Spanish-speaking adults in the Clark-Fulton community. Bilingual volunteer tutors are needed. Curriculum, practice tests and tutoring will be conducted in Spanish. Training for tutors will be provided. For more information visit [www.seedsofliteracy.org](http://www.seedsofliteracy.org), or to volunteer call 216-661-7950 or email: [SHARON@SEEDSOFLITERACY.ORG](mailto:SHARON@SEEDSOFLITERACY.ORG). **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).



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
 Saturday, November 2, 2019; Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) Parade of Skulls & Skeletons, W. 65<sup>th</sup> & Detroit Avenue: Skeleton clad marchers join in the parade.

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