



**PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN**  
 Thursday, December 5, 2019, meeting about the new west side high school at Garrett Morgan High School, 4016 Woodbine Avenue: Anshawn Ivery, who will serve as principal at one of two high schools located in the new school building at 4600 Detroit Avenue, gives an overview of the liberal arts curriculum at a new high school which he says will offer pathways in mass communication and social justice.

**FREE**

Standard Presorted  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 CLEVELAND, OHIO  
 PERMIT 1354

Vol. 47, No. 1 January 2020

# Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

## Community learns of academic programs planned for two schools at new west side high school building

by Chuck Hoven

Residents attending a community meeting at Garrett Morgan High School on December 5<sup>th</sup> learned about the academic programs to be offered to two high schools that will be located inside the new school building at 4600 Detroit Avenue. The new building is scheduled to open in August of 2020. Garrett

Morgan High School will move into the building from its present location on Woodbine Avenue. The new building will also house a yet to be named high school that will offer a liberal arts curriculum while offering students the opportunity to focus on the study of communications or social justice.

Brent Eysenbach, a community

resident serving on the committee of residents, stakeholders and teachers developing the academic program for the new high school, says the plan is for the new school to have an emphasis on the arts. It will prepare students for college or a career in the liberal arts. Eysenbach says there will be a focus on social and racial justice, and experiential learning.

Students will be asked to "think locally, and act locally," Eysenbach said. He noted, the Academic Design Team envisions students "engaged with stakeholder groups." They will "take what they are learning and understand it through the lens of the community they are living in."

Eysenbach, who has a background in urban geography, cited gentrification and the impact of past redlining by banks and insurance companies, as some issues that students could study as they learn about the world through examination of the neighborhoods in which they live.

Cleveland Metropolitan School District Director of Arts Education Jeffery Allen says the community expressed their wishes that arts be part of the new high school. He says plans call for connections with



**PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN**

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>; Wintertide at Gordon Square, W. 67<sup>th</sup> and Detroit Avenue: Music box dancer Shannon Metelko entertains Wintertide visitors with what she describes as "clown ballet". Metelko is a Tremont resident.

## Block Watch Meeting at the Urban Kutz Barbershop in Old Brooklyn organized in response to neighbors' concerns about recent murders

by Bruce Checefsky

On the afternoon of September 24<sup>th</sup>, Jay'Son Austin of Cleveland was stabbed to death on the 4400 block of Pearl Road near Gifford Avenue in Old Brooklyn. A group of twenty to thirty teenagers descended on the neighborhood, fighting and jumping on cars, according to police dispatch records. Waverly Willis, owner of Urban Kutz Barbershop on Pearl Road near the crime scene, turned surveillance footage from his security cameras over to the Cleveland Police Department. A 15-year-old suspect was later charged with Austin's murder.

Two months earlier, 19-year-old Brandon Cutnoe was fatally shot in the bathroom at the Cleveland Public Library's South Brooklyn Branch. In September 2019 alone, 21 people were killed in Cleveland. CBS News recently ranked Cleveland 8<sup>th</sup> in the most dangerous cities in America.

"I do not and I will not leave this position of Mayor until we are able to address the negative element that continues to plague Cleveland," said Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson in

an interview with the Call & Post, while responding to the shooting death of six-year old Lyrica Melodi Lawson in October. "When one person goes through this agony, we all go through this agony."

Public outrage over the murders and growing gang culture in the residential sprawl of Old Brooklyn prompted Urban Kutz Barbershop owner Willis to organize what he hopes will become a monthly meeting of block groups to help report crime. Willis reached out to Michael McDonald, Community Relations Representative for the City of Cleveland's Second Police District to help organize the first meeting on November 21, 2019.

In a brightly lit one-story cinder block building on Pearl Road, just a few feet from where the murder of Jay'Son Austin took place, large mirrors line the interior of Willis' barbershop. A young man carefully sculpted a razor edge design into a smooth fade haircut of a client in a barber's chair. In the background, the sound of electric hair clippers

## Listening Sessions: Residents express concerns about Tax Abatement Policy

by Bruce Checefsky

Residential property tax abatement is an economic development policy that many people in Cleveland find confusing. Who benefits the most from tax abatement? Why raise residential property taxes 200% to 300% in some cases to compensate for an economic policy centered on tax abatement? Why can't the county and city governments come together to find a solution to the decline in population

without squeezing out longtime residents?

### NEWS ANALYSIS

These and other questions were on the minds of Cleveland residents during a city-wide listening session organized by Neighborhood Connections and held in eleven different locations throughout the city including Life Skills Center, Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center, Neighborhood Housing Services, 3rd Space Action Lab, LGBT Center

of Greater Cleveland, and Pilgrim Church, among others. 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 Listening Sessions: Tax Abatement Policy.

Ed George, a volunteer with Neighborhoods Connection, horse-

continued on page 5



**PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN**

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>; Wintertide at Gordon Square, W. 67<sup>th</sup> and Detroit Avenue: Chennelle Bryant-Harris and Jailyn Sherell Harris of Talespinner Children's Theatre offer a sampling of musical parody as part of the Wintertide festivities.



**PHOTO BY WAVERLY WILLIS**

Thursday, November 21, 2019; Block watch meeting, Urban Kutz Barbershop, 4491 Pearl Road: Waverly Willis, owner of the Urban Kutz Barbershop, takes a selfie with those attending the block watch meeting. Urban Kutz Barbershop co-hosted the meeting along with The Urban Barber Association (TUBA).



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>; Wintertide at Gordon Square, W. 67<sup>th</sup> and Detroit Avenue: Hannah Storch and Elisa Fuentes of the Talespinner Children's Theatre stand outside of Near West Theatre helping to attract visitors to the children's programming going on inside the theatre.

**ARTS/MUSIC/THEATRE**  
**TRANSFORMER STATION:** 1460 W. 29<sup>th</sup>, Excerpts from Undercurrents: An Interactive Discussion will walk audience through a selection of books representing key themes in the exhibit. Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. Free and open to the public.  
**TRANSFORMER STATION:** 1460 W. 29, Only Connect, Technology's social experiment with our politics and our happiness. Thursday, January 16, 6:30 p.m. A conversation between writer Nora N. Khan and artist Tabitha Soren. Free and open to the public.

**CLE PHOTO FEST:** Group Show, titled OFF THE WALL at Doubting Thomas Gallery, 856 Jefferson Avenue in the Tremont neighborhood until January 12, 2020.

**MUSIC NEAR THE MARKET:** Featuring Cleveland's world-famous Beckerath Organ. Every Wednesday, 12:15-12:45 p.m. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, W. 30<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue.

**SPACES,** at 2900 Detroit Avenue, offers free gallery admission. Its

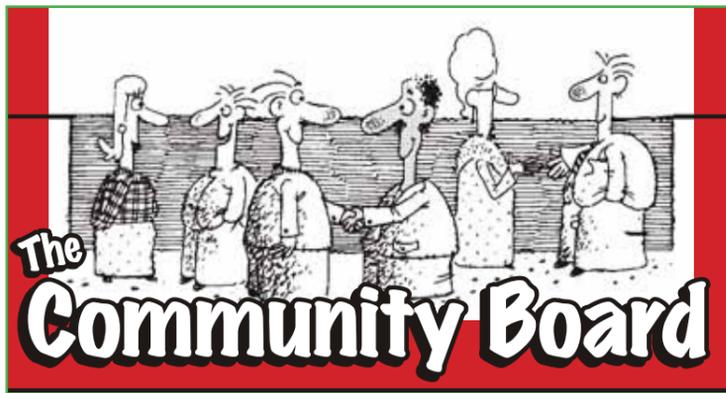
hours are Tuesday through Friday from Noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays open until 8 p.m. Free gallery tours available upon request.

**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).

**MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CLEVELAND (MOCA)** at 11400 Euclid Avenue is now offering the public free daily admission. Hours are Tuesday – Thursday from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Friday 11 a.m.- 9 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. **MOCA Saturdays:** different activities each week to engage and explore. Family Fun provided by PNC.

**COMMUNITY NEIGHBORUP ACTION GRANT – GRANTSEEKERS WORKSHOP:** January 13, 4-6 p.m., Cleveland Public Library Carnegie West



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.

Branch, 1900 Fulton. Deadline for submitting grant application, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**PEACE IN THE PUB:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 7-8:30 p.m., Market Garden Brewery, 1947 W. 25<sup>th</sup>. Speaker: Meghan Donovan, Chair of Cleveland Peace Action's Advocacy Committee will present "Why Peace is a Feminist Issue." Free & open to the public

**WOMEN'S MARCH CLEVELAND:** Sat., Jan 18, 2020, beginning at 10:30 am on the outside steps of Cleveland City Hall in downtown Cleveland. Speeches at 10:45 am, followed by a noon march to Public Square.

**WARD 3 DEMOCRATIC CLUB** will meet on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm in the Tremont Pointe Office, 2556 West 6th Street. **SOCIAL MEDIA SITES FOR OHIO CITY NEIGHBORHOOD:** #OHCNeighborGames2019; #OHCCCommunityConversation2019; Facebook: Ohio City incorporated; Twitter: @OhioCityTweets; and Instagram: @OhioCityInc.

**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.

**DONATIONS ALUMINUM CANS FOR BURNED CHILDREN (ACBC):** Instead of throwing aluminum cans out or placing them on your curb, collect them and take them to your local fire station. This will help benefit a pediatric burn survivor or prevent a

child from a burn injury. For more information about ACBC call 216-883-6633 or visit [www.acbcOhio.org](http://www.acbcOhio.org).

**EDUCATION 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 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

**Plain Press**  
 2012 W. 25th STE 500  
 Cleveland, OH 44113  
 Phone: (216) 621-3060  
 email:  
[plainpress@gmail.com](mailto:plainpress@gmail.com)  
 Advertising email:  
[plainpressads@yahoo.com](mailto:plainpressads@yahoo.com)  
 Website:  
<https://plainpress.blog>  
 Plain Press © Established in 1971  
 Circulation: 21,000 copies.  
 Published monthly.

Distribution area: Cuyahoga River west to W. 140, Lake Erie south to the Lower Big Creek Valley. Available free at over 500 locations.

**Managing Editor:** Charles E. Hoven;  
**Editor:** Deborah Rose Sadlon;  
**Copy Editor:** Craig Bobby  
**Editorial Intern:** Colin Muman  
**Reporters:** Bruce Checefsky & Victoria Shea

**Photo Editor:** Coriana Close;  
**Photographer:** Michael Oakar  
**Advertising Sales:** Ed Tishel  
**Graphic Artist:** David Myers  
**Distribution:** Ahmed Morad  
**Mailing:** Teresa Calvo  
**Board of Trustees:** Keith Brown, Peggy Davenport, David Gamble, Dr. Leo Jeffres, Joe Narkin, and Helen K. Smith.

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 Workforce 360° Center, 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 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.

**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.

continued on page 7



## LANDLORD Just Won't Fix it?

**Consider  
Rent Deposit  
At the office of**

**Cleveland Clerk of Courts**

**Earle B. Turner**  
**(216) 664-4812**



*Walter Martens & Sons Funeral Home*

9811 Denison Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44102

216-281-7111 • 216-651-9415 (fax)

[businessmartens@aol.com](mailto:businessmartens@aol.com)

[www.martensfuneralhome.com](http://www.martensfuneralhome.com)

**Correction**

A reader kindly pointed out that we misspelled the word "altar" in an article about St. Stephen's Church in the December 2019 issue of the Plain Press. The Plain Press website contains a corrected version of the article. We apologize for this error.

**Max Hayes Food Drive collects donations for St. Augustine Hunger Center**

Max Hayes High School students and staff filled the bed of a pickup truck with groceries and delivered them to the hunger center at St. Augustine Church on November 26<sup>th</sup>, just days before Thanksgiving. About a dozen students from Max Hayes High School accompanied by teachers and staff members came to St. Augustine to unload the truck.

The donations in the truck were the result of a successful food drive at Max Hayes High School.

Max Hayes Construction Program teachers James MacDowell and Jim

Mulgrew say the school “organized our chapter of Skills USA and our first community project was to establish a food drive.”

The teachers reported, “The team used the drive to weigh the food and set a 2000lb goal. Every day we calculated the progress. We built a big thermometer and painted our increasing percentages.

“We used the event to teach math and writing. The students made posters and created clever morning announcement speeches,” they added. Mulgrew noted that cash

donations to the food drive offered students an opportunity to shop and calculate how to get the best value for their budgets at a local grocery.

“It was a great school project and all the staff were very supportive. The security staff collected all the cans in the morning, and Ms. Evans our security officer was a great supporter advertising and keeping the food drive going” MacDowell and Mulgrew said.

In addition, they noted, “The health teacher, Mr. G, was also a solid avenue for good can collections.”



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, November 26, 2019; St. Augustine Church, 2486 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street: Max Hayes student Christian Harris unloads a box of donated food from the truck. Students and staff from Max Hayes High School brought donations to the St. Augustine Hunger Center from their school’s food drive. Max Hayes High School’s food drive collected over 2,000 pounds of food to donate to the hunger center.

**Cleveland Public Power fails to give its customers proper shutoff notices**

by Jacie Jones & Delaney Jones

This article is the second in a series based on issues that came out of the Cleveland End Poverty Now Coalition’s October 17th public hearing about utility shutoffs through Cleveland Public Power (CPP).

The first article focused on the issues that customers face when applying for assistance to avoid shutoffs. This article focuses on the lack of notice some customers receive about being shutoff.

Issues to be addressed in future articles include: lack of due process before shutoffs, inability to make affordable payment plans, electricity being turned off for people with medical issues, and an over 50% surcharge on customers’ bills called the “Energy Adjustment Charge” which has yet to be

adequately explained by CPP.

How would you like to suddenly find your power tuned off without you never being informed that your power was being turned off? This is happening to Cleveland Public Power customers across Cleveland.

The Cleveland Codified Ordinances, which govern and regulate CPP, clearly lay out the requirements about shutoff notices for people who are behind on their utility payments. If the customer fails to pay, their account is termed “delinquent” and can be subject to discontinuation of service. However, the customer has certain rights before their power can actually be turned off. CPP must give the consumer notice before termination of service.

The first notice must be sent at least ten

days before termination could occur. If CPP receives no response within five days, then a second notice must be sent, or personal contact must be made with an adult on the premises by phone or personal visit. There are also additional specific requirements for notification for an elderly or handicapped individual.

Despite being required by law, many customers report receiving no notice that their power is going to be shutoff. One individual shared her experience from this August, stating “I was at the hospital with my three-year old daughter when I got a call that my service was disconnected. They shut off my service on a late Friday afternoon. I

continued on page 6

**Reader comments on Cleveland City Council’s examination of tax abatement policy**

To the editor:

“A tax abatement is a reduction of taxes granted by a government to encourage economic development. The most common type of tax abatement is a property tax abatement granted to a business as an incentive to come to a city or expand existing operations within the city.” Source: Google.

**LETTER**

It is my understanding that tax abatement in the city of Cleveland first occurred in 1977 under the Mayor Ralph Perk administration. The question before any tax abatement proposal must be the acceptable trade off of granting the tax break in exchange for the tangible benefits the business will bring. I propose that Cleveland State University

graduate students in the Department of Urban Affairs conduct their own private study (to be made public at a later date) investigating line-by-line the amount of the tax break given, and the true tangible results achieved.

For example, an article by Jay Miller in the April 16, 2019 issue of *Crain’s Cleveland Business* titled “Cleveland will review its tax incentive policy” says, “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 for to National City Bank, now a part of PNC Bank.”

The question is: Was it worth it? How many jobs were created? What were the salaries? Did the bank provide a

positive competitive experience vis-à-vis the other banks in the area? What positive externalities resulted from this tax abatement?

Most think that only items that could be quantified should be considered but unfortunately there are many more factors to consider when reviewing such a proposal. Qualified measures must be applied too. CSU has a lot of research to do by analyzing every tax abatement (big or small) since 1977. I hope they welcome the challenge. And remember when all else fails common sense prevails. Hopefully Jane Jacobs can weigh in on this too.

Joe Bialek, Cleveland resident

**SMALL TO MEDIUM TREES TRIMMED OR REMOVED**  
(216) 326-4377

**KRISTINA'S Family Restaurant**  
9912 Lorain Ave.  
216-961-4455  
216-961-4182  
Hours!  
Mon. thru Sat. 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Sundays 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Breakfast Special:  
2 eggs, 2 bacon or 2 sausage, homefries and toast.  
**\$3.50**

**ENJOYABLES by JR**  
Women's & Men's Lingerie • Small to 4X Catalogue Orders  
216-254-0256  
10933 Lorain Ave.  
\$10.00 off a \$50.00 In Store Purchase  
Order Online:  
www.enjoyablesbyjr.com

**OHIO ANTIQUE PICKERS**  
\$\$\$\$ WANTED \$\$\$\$ 440-723-3722  
Radios • Old Toys - tin windup cast iron • Fishing Items - lures reels • Sport Cards - baseball basketball football hockey any sports • Comic Books • Oil Bottles • Posters • Signs, • Telephones • Old Bottles • Early Board Games • Advertising Items • Motorcycles • Motor scooters -Vespa, Labretta, Cushman • Old Movie Posters • Boy Scout Items • Bicycles • Cap Guns • Oil Paintings

infinitylove.eventplanning@gmail.com  
infinitylove4eventplanning.com  
We can help you Design and Coordinate your event.  
**Infinity Love 4 Event Planning**  
(216) 307-3036  
Jandra Nguyen

**Franklin Plaza**  
Skilled Rehabilitation Services  
Part of the Legacy Health Services Family  
Proudly serving the Ohio City community featuring:  
• Private Rehabilitation Suites  
• Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapies  
• Short-Term Rehabilitation Services  
• Complex Wound Care  
• Hospice Care  
• Respite Stays  
3600 Franklin Boulevard  
Cleveland, OH 44113  
216-651-1600  
www.lhshealth.com

**SAY YES TO EDUCATION CLEVELAND**  
**Free College Tuition For Eligible CMSD Grads**  
SayYesCleveland.org  
CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT



PHOTO BY LIAM KYLE

Boys and Girls Club at Walton School, 3409 Walton Avenue: Children engage in an art project at the Walton Boys and Girls Club. The club will be relocating to Joseph Gallagher Elementary School at W. 65<sup>th</sup> and Franklin Boulevard in January of 2020.

**BLOCK WATCH**

continued from page one

was mixed with conversation by a small group of neighbors seated in folding chairs.

"I've owned the business for 11 years," Willis said. "I purchased this building three years ago. Since we've opened the doors our goal is not just to be a business in the community. We want to become part of the fabric of the neighborhood. We do a lot of charitable events and community service work."

Father Doug Brown, pastor at Mary Queen of Peace on Pearl Road, and Chaplain for the Cleveland Police, expressed his strong belief about the potential of the neighborhood to overcome adversity. "I'm committed to do whatever it takes to make life better for residents," he said.

Ted and Debbie Bower, longtime Old Brooklyn homeowners have been living in the same place since 1972. They replaced the siding and roof on their house, and driveway, and try to keep up with repairs out of respect for their neighbors.

"We try to make everything good for the neighborhood. The days are gone when you can keep the doors open," Ted said.

"We used to have block watches but now everything has to be locked up today even if you're sitting on the porch. It's kind of scary," Debbie added. "I grew up here and it was ideal. I know it can't be that way now."

Cleveland Police Officer Angly Gaviria tried to console the Bowers by suggesting they report suspicious activity to the police as soon as they see it. She also offered shopping and travel tips to the group for the holidays to help prevent crime.

"Use common sense. It's the season where everyone needs money. Be aware of your surroundings and don't go alone. Lock your car doors," she said. "If you're not home -- maybe visiting family for dinner -- tell your neighbors. Park your car in the driveway so it looks like you're there."

Officer Gaviria reminded residents that police can use latent fingerprints on door handles and windows to identify

criminals with a past history. Building trust with your neighbors is a good way to be a supportive community. "We try our best to be there when you need us," she added.

Willis could say the same thing about being there for the community. He gives free haircuts to the homeless, free haircuts to children heading back to school whose parents can't afford it. He started doing blood pressure checks at his barbershops. Urban Kutz Barbershop, a business he founded in May 2008, was voted Best Barbershop by Cleveland's Hotlist. The popular destination has become a hotspot for building a community and creating a safe place where residents of this otherwise troubled neighborhood can find a sense of peace and safety.

"We want to build a crime watch program. This is a great first step. I'd like to see this house burst out with people," Willis said.

Neighborhood watch programs can take time to build. Communication needs to grow and strengthen with community participation. Adding names and email contact information to a list of concerned

**Boys & Girls Clubs coming to Gallagher and Lincoln West**

Kids ages 6-18 on the West Side will have two new places to go after school in January, when Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland relocates one Club and returns to Lincoln-West High School.

The Club now at Walton School will be relocating to Joseph M. Gallagher Elementary School, 6601 Franklin Blvd., where it anticipates having more space, a larger student population and the wraparound social, health and family services provided by the Say Yes to Education Cleveland initiative.

Lincoln-West, which is also a Say Yes school, will again have a Club Teen Center. About two years ago, BGCC merged the Lincoln-West Teen Center into its Club at Luis Munoz Marin School at 1701 Castle.

For membership information, visit <http://www.clevelandkids.org/find-a-club/join-a-club/>.

Ron Soeder, interim president and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio, BGCC's parent

organization, said it made sense to move the Walton Club now because the school is scheduled to close at the end of this academic year. In addition, the services available under the Say Yes initiative will make both the Gallagher and Lincoln-West sites more attractive to families.

"We are truly excited about the opportunity to serve the kids and families at Gallagher," Soeder said. "Walton has been one of our strongest clubs, and the same leadership that inspired so much loyalty there will now be at Gallagher. We think the neighborhood will welcome us."

Walton Club staffer Natasha Arroyo will be the site director at Gallagher. Michael Cook, the former wraparound coordinator at Lincoln-West High School, will be the site director for the teen center.

Both the Gallagher and Lincoln-West sites will open in January, although the exact dates are not known.

residents will help counter negative activity, according to Willis.

"This is a great start to get everyone in the room. We're not going to have a complaining session. We'll hear you out, but we don't want to sit around and rest on our laurels. I want to be able to do something. Strength in numbers," he said.

The overall crime rate in Old Brooklyn is 161% higher than the national average. With a population of more than 33,000, the median household income is \$39,700, or 22% below the state average; 12.9% of Old Brooklyn residents live in poverty, almost even with the poverty rate in Ohio.

Janeen, a teacher in the Cleveland School District and resident of Old Brooklyn, tried on several occasions to work with Ward 13 Councilman Kevin Kelly but with mixed results when it came to children's services and the neighborhood. Kelly, who also is president of Cleveland City Council, represents Old Brooklyn from the Big Creek and the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo south to Brookpark Road and parts of the Stockyard neighborhood.

"I try to save all the kids at school. I try to save the neighborhood kids. I can't do it all," Janeen said. "The kids don't feel safe in the schools. I can see danger on the way to school, whether you walk on the left side of the road or the right is a signal to the gangs. I also see the lack of power to do anything by our administration."

Residents in this diverse neighborhood are dealing with a sense of fear and inability to effect change, according to some participants at the barbershop meeting. An action plan should have been put into place years ago they argue. But at the same time, waiting until January 2020 might be the best opportunity to organize another meeting that could eventually lead to a strong crime watch program.

Father Doug Brown offered a prayer as the group began to disband for the evening. He leaned into those around him and held their hands.

"Almighty God, we call upon you to be with us and cast your blessing upon this neighborhood and help us to be good role models to those around us. We pray that this group continues to grow."

**OHIO ANTIQUE PICKERS**  
 \$\$\$ WANTED \$\$\$ 440-723-3722

Radios • Old Toys - tin windup cast iron • Fishing Items - lures reels • Sport Cards - baseball basketball football hockey any sports • Comic Books • Oil Bottles • Posters • Signs • Telephones • Old Bottles • Early Board Games • Advertising Items • Motorcycles • Motor scooters -Vespa, Labretta, Cushman • Old Movie Posters • Boy Scout Items • Bicycles • Cap Guns • Oil Paintings

**Hillson's**  
 NUTS OF QUALITY SINCE 1935  
 Visit our Factory Outlet Store  
 3225 W. 71<sup>st</sup> St. (South of Clark)  
 961-4477  
 Toll Free: 800-333-2818

8:00-5:00 Mon. - Fri.  
 Best in the West!

**La Borincana Foods**  
 2127 Fulton Road • 216-651-2351  
 The home of Imported Foods from all over the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Africa  
 Hours: Mon - Sat: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Sun: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**FABIO'S PIZZA**  
 Freshly made, Authentic, Homemade Italian Ingredients  
 4203 Clark Ave., Cleveland  
 We dare you to find a better pizza!  
 216-939-7777  
 www.FabiosPizza.com  
 Monday-Saturday 6pm-4am • Closed Sunday and Holidays

**SpinCycle** Coin Laundry **NOW OPEN**

**ALL NEW WASHER & DRYERS**

**Hours: Every Day 7am - 12am**

**2154 W 117th St. In Staples Plaza 216-671-7775**

## NEW WEST SIDE HIGH SCHOOL

continued from page one

the community theatres, galleries and arts-based organizations in the neighborhood.

Anshawn Ivery, an assistant principal at John Marshall School of Information Technology, will be the principal of the new high school. Ivery says the curriculum at the new school will be inquiry based and arts infused. He said students will be looking at how choices impact progress. They will use the investigative tools of journalism to examine social issues.

Ivery says the academic plan

calls for students to have a half day internship in their senior year.

The new high school will be participating in the upcoming high school choice fairs at the end of January and early February to recruit its first class of students entering the ninth grade in the upcoming 2020-21 school year. The school will add a grade each year.

Sharing the school building with the new high school will be Garrett Morgan High School. Students will be able to take classes in both schools. Garrett Morgan's focus will be on science and pre-engineering.

Garrett Morgan Principal Quenton Davis says the school will be keeping its engineering program and adding a media arts & engineering program. He says that the current Bio-medical program the school offers will be phased out, saying that it more properly belongs at Lincoln West with the Science and Health Education program it offers.

Davis urged students and parents to consider Garrett Morgan as their high school of choice. He boasted of the quality of the academic programs the school is currently offering saying, "I am willing to put our Bio-Med and Engineering programs up against any in the school district."

## TAX ABATEMENT POLICY

continued from page one

shoed the half dozen residents of Kamm's Corner neighborhood into a tight circle at the Gunning Recreation Center. Everyone was introduced before the discussion quickly shifted to residential tax abatement and the obvious inequities in the recent property assessment process. George reminded residents that any information collected during the meeting would remain anonymous when consolidated into the final report to be submitted to Council in late January 2020.

"We want to protect your personal information like property values, taxes, and improvements," George said. "I also want to make sure everyone is heard tonight."

In the late 1980's, the city of Cleveland began offering residential property tax abatement in an effort to reduce urban blight, attract new home owners, and build upon the momentum established by the construction of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Progressive Field (Jacobs Field), Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse (Gund Arena), and FirstEnergy Stadium. But population continued to decline despite a policy that favored a ten-year property tax abatement, applied to 75 percent the value of new construction. The terms were extended to fifteen years for 100 percent of the value of new residences several years later where it currently holds today. By 2020, Cleveland's population is expected to decline by more than 25% since 1987 when the residential tax abatement program was first enacted. Clearly, something is not working.

The City of Cleveland's Residential Tax Abatement program generally applies to new construction of single-family or two-family dwellings, or multifamily investor-owned properties; rehabilitation of residential multifamily structures; and rehabilitation of single-family and two-family dwellings. The Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office determines the abatement amount based on the type of improvements, including the addition of living area; gutting and renovating a home or apartment building; converting all or part of a nonresidential building to a residential use; building new or enlarging a garage; adding a new bathroom or toilet; adding a new porch; installing a shower; installing an indoor fireplace; or finishing an attic, second floor, or bedroom with paneling, plaster or plasterboard. Improvements which do not apply to residential property tax abatement include new roof, siding repair, window addition or repair, porch repair, sidewalks, kitchen remodel, replacing mechanicals like water heater, furnace, or any electrical wiring repairs. (for a full list link to: <http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/City-of-Cleveland/Home/Government/CityAgencies/CommunityDevelopment/TaxAbatement>)

The research provided by Neighborhood Connections so far has shown that the greatest concentration in tax abatement between 2004 and 2018 was in neighborhoods surrounding downtown and

the west side of the city creating displacement risk ratio, essentially forcing residents who can no longer afford to live there to sell their homes and move. Statistically speaking, displacement risk ratio represents 3% of the city population located in Detroit Shoreway, Ohio City, Downtown, Northern Tremont, and west of Case Western University. Housing insecurity is especially high in these areas. With an additional 35% of the city considered stable, predominately on the west side, over 58% of the city is declining, predominately on the east side including the Mount Pleasant, Fairfax, South Broadway, and Kinsman neighborhoods.

"You can go back and look at the history of redlining in Cuyahoga County and Cleveland and literally take that map from 1930 and overlay on today's map. We're dealing with huge structural racism issues with roots that go back generations," George said. "We see that playing out now."

Redlining is the systematic denial of various services to residents of racially associated neighborhoods or communities through selectively raising of prices. In Cleveland redline maps show how loan officers, appraisers and real-estate professionals evaluated mortgage-lending risk by explicitly excluding African Americans and other minority groups from receiving home loans.

Open redlining, as a practice, was outlawed in the 1968 Fair Housing Act, but the strategy persists today by investors when selecting sites for development. Bank loans are still notoriously difficult to get in these areas. Instead of investing in education, job training, infrastructure and innovation, the residential tax abatement policy, as an economic strategy, drives up property values especially in the housing insecure sections of the city, and leaves

the existing community with fewer affordable housing options. Mount Pleasant, Fairfax, South Broadway, and Kinsman are left out of tax abatement opportunities because of systemic racism and redlining left over from the 1930's, some critics of the program argue.

Nick Aylward, a resident of West Park, asked, "As we look at the current policy, is there an opportunity to evaluate who's benefiting from tax abatement?"

George had no clear answer.

"Developers benefit the most from tax abatement," said Michele Anderson, a 33-year veteran real estate sales agent at Cleveland-based Progressive Urban Real Estate in a telephone interview with the *Plain Press*. Anderson is a Historic House Specialist, Member of OAR and CABOR, and longtime Westside city resident. "Developers can charge more money for the property not reflected in the tax value. Home buyers can also save hundreds of dollars a month on deferred taxes."

"When the tax abatement expires, properties sell more slowly," she added. "Everybody knows they'll be paying a lot more in taxes if they live there."

A week later, on the second floor of the LGBT Community Center on Detroit Ave, handmade silkscreened posters with Act Now and other slogans hung from a makeshift clothesline that zigzagged across the room. The Marvelettes' 1961 hit song 'Please Mr. Postman' played in the background while a dozen neighborhood residents shuffled in from the cold night to find a seat.

Attendees were split into two smaller working groups. Among the questions asked was whether anyone knew if developers and real estate companies were involved with supporting the election campaigns of City Council members who favored extending the tax abatement policy.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, December 5, 2019, Meeting about the new west side high school at Garrett Morgan High School, 4016 Woodbine Avenue: Near West Side resident Brent Eysenbach, a member of a committee of residents, teachers and stakeholders that has been meeting since May to work on designing a curriculum for a new west side high school. The new school is now recruiting ninth grade students for the 2020-21 school year. The school, which has not yet been named, will offer a liberal arts curriculum with an emphasis on social justice and mass communications.

A review of Ohio Campaign Finance Report provided by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections revealed that between 2016-2018, Ward 3 Councilman Kerry McCormack received campaign contributions from several major real estate developers including Snavelly Group; Forest City Enterprise, Inc.; B.R. Knez Construction; Geis Construction; Brickhaus Partners; GBX Group; Private Equity Real Estate; Coakley Real Estate; and others.

Cleveland's Ward 3 has the highest quantity and density of tax-abated properties, according to research provided by Neighborhood Connections.

Jim Cutrone has witnessed the ebbs and flow of redevelopment

in his neighborhood on West 76th Street since the late 1980's and wanted to know about past damages caused to Cleveland Metropolitan School District by the tax abatement. "There's serious damage being done by this policy," he said. "Just look at the public schools. What's the plan to abate the damage that's already done?"

"Raid the state's rainy-day fund to offset the funds we're giving away," said Linda Warren, Senior Vice-President of Placemaking for Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, a non-profit intermediary supporting the redevelopment of Cleveland's neighborhoods. Warren is also a long-time resident of Detroit Shore-

continued on page 7

### IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2928 Scranton Rd. • 216-781-9511

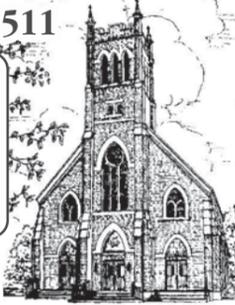
#### SUNDAY SERVICES:

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



### 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

Eucharistic Adoration, Tuesdays 9:00am-6:30pm

Hall Rental available - call parish office 216-961-8331

#### ST. ROCCO SCHOOL

*Serving the Fulton Clark area since 1927 • Pre-K 4 to Grade 8*

Accepts: Cleveland Scholarship, Ed Choice Expansion & Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship.

Free daily breakfast and lunch. Offering Catholic liberal arts education;

a very warm and integrated school family; caring faculty & staff;

welcome to all faith's, races and ethnic heritages; after-school programs, clubs and more.

For more information call: 216-961-8557. Tours are offered upon request.

### 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

ANOIDING 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

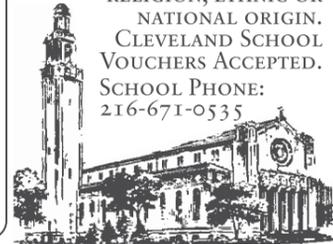
NATIONAL ORIGIN.

CLEVELAND SCHOOL

VOUCHERS ACCEPTED.

SCHOOL PHONE:

216-671-0535



### Franklin Circle Christian Church

1688 Fulton Road

216-781-8232

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

Sunday Service

10:30 AM

A fully inclusive  
faith community





PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, December 13, 2019; CLE Small Press Roundtable, Cleveland City Hall, E. 6<sup>th</sup> and Lakeside: Mayor Frank Jackson explains the rationale behind plans to locate the new Cleveland Police Headquarters along the Opportunity Corridor in the Kinsman neighborhood.

## Mayor Frank Jackson explains rationale behind planned location for new police headquarters

by Chuck Hoven

At a December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting with Cleveland community newspapers and small media outlets, Mayor Frank Jackson explained the reasoning behind the City of Cleveland's plans to build a new police headquarters along the Opportunity Corridor route in the Kinsman neighborhood. The Opportunity Corridor, now under construction, links the E. 55<sup>th</sup> exit of I-490 with University Circle. The City of Cleveland and the State of Ohio hope the corridor will attract new businesses and revitalize neighborhoods along its route.

The new police headquarters is planned for a 12-acre site south of Woodland at about E. 75<sup>th</sup> near Orlando Baking Company located on the 7700 block of Grand Avenue. Mayor Jackson says the location is close to the E. 55<sup>th</sup> Street exit for I-490. He said the site is also within walking distance of Regional Transit Authority rapid station stops on E. 79<sup>th</sup> Street, noting that employees of Orlando Baking Company currently take the rapid to work.

The location will allow for a state-of-the-art facility with both technological and design innovations, says Mayor Jackson. Unlike downtown locations considered for the new headquarters, the Kinsman site has plenty of space for parking. The location will also allow the Cleveland Police Department to consolidate its indoor firing range, and special units such as its gang unit and narcotics unit all in one location. Mayor Jackson says the new facility will have 1,000 employees working there, of which 700 are police officers and 300 civilians.

Mayor Jackson says other advantages of the site are that because it is part of the Opportunity Corridor, it is shovel ready, and all the utilities are ready. He said residents of the communities near the site will also benefit from jobs and contracts.

Mayor Jackson said it is only possible to assemble such a large site in a distressed neighborhood. He said there are many, nearby, large development sites that the city of Cleveland is hoping to attract businesses to invest in along the Opportunity Corridor. The sites are shovel ready, the infrastructure is in place, and there are fiber cable options -- all things that businesses say they need.

However, Mayor Jackson says two factors have been cited by businesses as to why they are not ready to move to this portion of the Opportunity Corridor. One reason is safety, and another reason is that they do not want to be the first one to move into the area. Mayor Jackson says moving the police headquarters to the area as the first new entity in the neighborhood will address both concerns.

### SHUTOFF NOTICES

continued from page 3

also received no notice that they were disconnecting my service".

Another individual was shut off without warning in June. She stated, "I woke up to feed my son and realized my refrigerator light was not on, so I checked the light switch, and nothing worked. I even checked my fuse box thinking that was the problem, and still nothing. I checked my door to see if they left me a disconnection notice but there was nothing. All my food is going bad and now I won't be able to cook for my 3-year-old son".

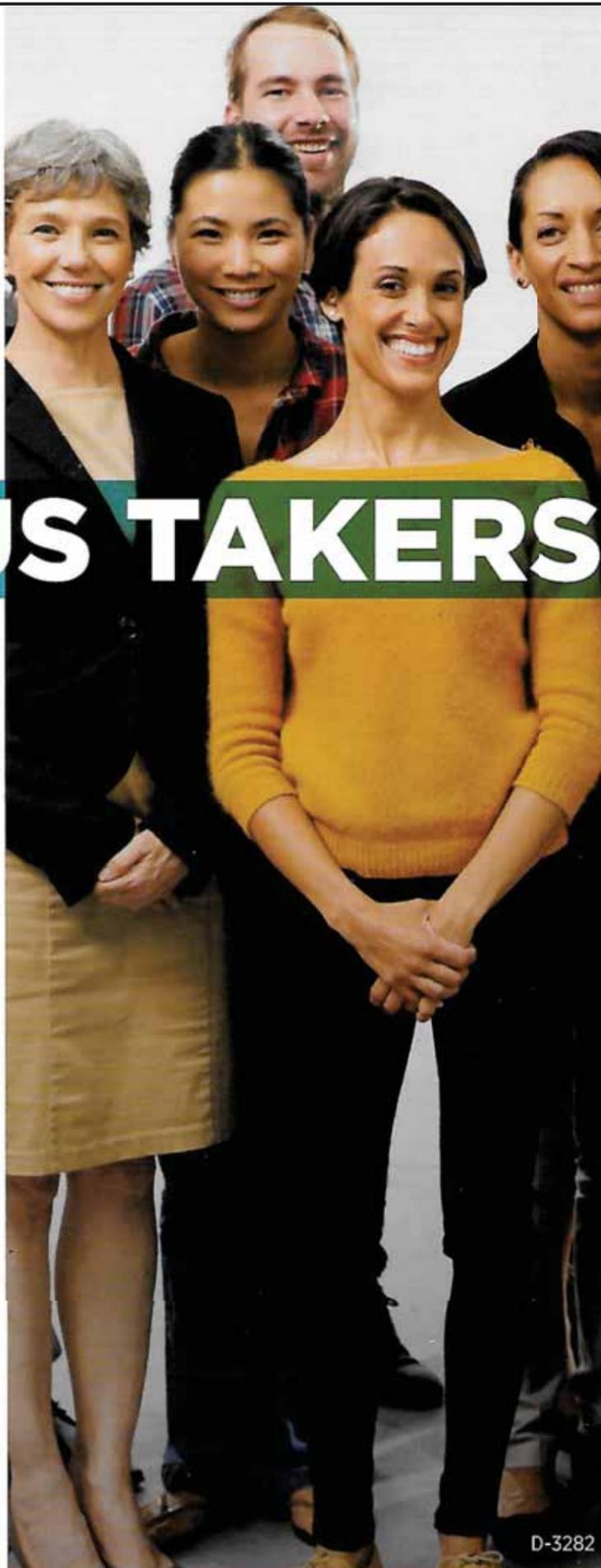
In addition to timely notification, the following information must be included in each shutoff notice: the name and account information of the customer, the date after which the shutoff could occur, the charge for service reconnection, a statement that the consumer has the right to appear before a board of review to present objections, the total amount owed and the time period for which that amount is owed.

Upon examination of several shutoff notices CPP customers have received, much of this information is not there. Specifically, shutoff notices both mailed to the customer and/or placed on their door did not include the date after which termination could occur, the charge for service reconnection, information about the consumer's right to appear before a board of review, or the time frame during which the customer did not pay their full bill.

A particularly bizarre and outrageous way that people are being disconnected is related to those people who move from one location with CPP service to another location with CPP service. One would expect that the final bill owed at the old location would be sent and added to the bill at the new location. However, that is not what happens.

Instead, the final bill for the old apartment or house continues to be sent to that old address. When it is not paid, your CPP service will be disconnected at your new apartment or house. For example, one individual whose former address was demolished, continued having her old bill sent to the old house that no longer existed. At her new house, her CPP service was turned off for that lack of payment for the bill she never received.

The overall evidence is clear that some customers do not receive notification that their power will be shutoff, and those that do receive a notice are not provided the legally required information. This is not only against city laws, but also unjust, and makes a difficult situation much more challenging.



# WE CAN BE CENSUS TAKERS

**APPLY ONLINE!**  
[2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs)

2020 Census jobs provide:

- ✓ Great pay
- ✓ Flexible hours
- ✓ Weekly pay
- ✓ Paid training

For more information or help applying, please call  
**1-855-JOB-2020**

Federal Relay Service:  
 1-800-877-8339 TTY/ASCII  
[www.gsa.gov/fedrelay](http://www.gsa.gov/fedrelay)

The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



D-3282

# TAX ABATEMENT POLICY

continued from page 5

for more than 35 years.

In 2018, Ohio budget officials added more than \$657.5 million in the state's savings account to amass nearly \$2.7 billion in rainy day funds by cutting Medicaid spending by \$200 million, including a \$75 million reduction for hospitals, among other cuts to the state budget, according to several published reports.

At the final meeting of a two-month, 11 community listening sessions sweep through Cleveland, more than 30 residents of Tremont crowded into the basement of Pilgrim Church on West 14th Street to air their concerns on tax abatement. Holiday decorations lined the hallways and walls. Sugar cookies, water, and soft drinks were served. Folding tables were spread across the room and residents split into

three groups. Kaela Geschke, community network manager for wealth + racial equity initiatives at Neighborhood Connections, and two volunteers working with Geschke led the breakout discussions. The mood was cautious optimism.

Adam Waldbaum and Lynn Murray support extending the tax abatement policy but with a caveat.

"Tax abatement helped build certain neighborhoods like Ohio City and Tremont," Murray said. "How can we extend that to other areas of the city?"

"We need to keep tax abatement," added Waldbaum, a real estate developer. "But we should also make certain people who have lived in the community all of their lives can continue to live here without worrying about whether they can afford higher property taxes or not."

At a table across the room, Seronica Powell wasn't so sure the current policy is working. "I've lived in Duck Island for 16 years. I don't see myself living here much longer. I bought a home on the east side where its less expensive. Tax abatement needs to support medium and low-income families not just high-income families."

Geschke reflected on the meetings following a 12-hour workday. "We heard a lot of people worried about their property taxes going up," she said. "People overall have not suggested we get rid of the current policy but want to see a policy that reflects income levels."

Henry Senyak, Chairperson Lincoln Heights Block Club, stood and watched as the tables and chairs were folded and residents zipped up their winter coats and filed out from Pilgrim Church.

"BULLSHIT!" he said. "And make sure you use capital letters."

# COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

## FOOD

**LINCOLN WEST GLOBAL STUDIES HIGH SCHOOL FOOD PANTRY**, 3202 W. 30th Street, 3-5 p.m. on February 11, March 10, April 14, May 12 and June 9th. Fresh Produce. Bring your own bags. Enter from North side parking lot.

**GREATER CLEVELAND FOOD BANK**: Call 216-738-7239, or visit 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

**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 NORTHEAST 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.

## 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).

## SERVICES

**RENEE JONES EMPOWERMENT**

**CENTER, 3764 W. 25th 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.dvcac.org](http://www.dvcac.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. 25th 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.seedsoliteracy.org](http://www.seedsoliteracy.org), or to volunteer call 216-661-7950 or email: [SHARON@SEEDSOFLITERACY.ORG](mailto:SHARON@SEEDSOFLITERACY.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

## CLASSIFIED

**PLAIN PRESS CLASSIFIED: \$10 for 12 words and 30¢ for each additional word. To advertise count the words and mail a check or money order with your ad to the Plain Press, 2012 W. 25th #500 Cleveland, OH 44113.**

## FLEA MARKETS/THRIFTS

**ST. PAUL'S THRIFT STORE**: W. 45th and Franklin, Clothing, bric-a-brac, household items and more. **Open Wednesdays 1 to 5pm** (regular prices) **First Saturday** of Month 10 to noon store and Gym, Bargain Prices, Clothes **\$1.00 a bag**. **Third Saturday** of Month 10 to Noon Store only, All unmarked racked clothes **\$1.00 a bag**.

## FOR RENT

**PROPERTY OWNERS NEEDED**: If you are a property owner with nice, clean, reasonably priced apartments, and are looking for tenants, please call Care Alliance at (216) 372-2348 and ask for Jim Schlecht.

## SUBSCRIPTION TV

**STREETS MOS SUBSCRIBE: STREETSMOSTV: YOUTUBE.COM/STREETSMOSTV** • Interviews • HoodNews • Music • Lifestyle • 216-633-1078.

## TOASTMASTERS

**TOASTMASTERS** --do you know Don Smith and/or Joe Smith of Club 2606? Please call Judy at 859-443-9876.

## Accountant

**QUICK FIX TAX SERVICES**  
*WE STRAIGHTEN OUT MESSSES*  
**RECORDS IN A MESS?  
IS IRS ON YOUR BACK?**  
MAKE CHANGES TO HELP LOWER TAXES AND SAVE ON TAX PREPARATION.  
KNOW PERSON WHO DOES?  
**REFER THEM, EARN CASH  
CALL (216) 631-8858**

## Attorneys

**Val Schurowliw**  
*Abogado/Attorney at Law*  
**216-314-6194**  
*Serving Cleveland and surrounding suburbs*  
**Real Estate, Evictions, DUI,  
Divorce, Foreclosures  
Reasonable Rates**

**MARIE T. SMYTHE**  
*Attorney at Law*  
**(216) 533-4225**  
Probate  
Personal Injury  
– Including dog bites,  
slip and falls  
**Free Initial Consultation**

## Auto Body

**Plain Press  
BUSINESS  
DIRECTORY**

## Plain Press

To Advertise  
contact  
Ed Tishel  
at

[plainpressads@yahoo.com](mailto:plainpressads@yahoo.com)

## Auto Body

**KAP AUTO BODY**  
**216-251-6234**  
*Expert Auto Painting  
Fender & Body Repairs  
Collision, Frame & Insurance Work*  
Ostoja "Sandy" Kutlesic & Sam Kutlesic  
**10512 St. Mark Street**  
(corner of W. 105th and St. Mark)

## Insurance

**A AAA ALL AMERICAN  
AUTO AGENCY**  
"NO ONE REFUSED"  
Lowest Price On:  
Auto • Home • Cycles  
SR-22 • Liability  
**SAME DAY COVERAGE**  
10 Companies to Choose From  
**Low Down Payments**  
**Call 440-888-8884**

## Rooms For Rent

**ROOMS FOR RENT**  
• Clean, furnished rooms located in Tremont  
• Weekly or Monthly rentals available  
• Utilities included  
• Cable available  
• Washer / Dryer on-site  
For more information:  
**Call Jeff at 216-215-7132**

## Real Estate

★ **WILL BUY** ★  
Your Home, Double,  
Small Apartment,  
Storefront, Vacant Lot...  
regardless of Condition for  
CASH or Terms  
**Call ART KNIGHT**  
**Red's Realty LLC**  
**(440) 835-2292**  
**(216) 570-2742**  
email: [artfla@msn.com](mailto:artfla@msn.com)



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

**Saturday, December 7, 2019; W. 47th Street Block Club's Miracle on 47th Street Holiday Event, W. 47th Street between Bridge and Franklin: Youths try to stay warm by the fire while visiting with Santa and enjoying the holiday cheer.**

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 [advocates.org](http://advocates.org) or call 216.443.3377 for more information.

**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).

# Apply Online Now 2020CENSUS.GOV/JOBS

Thousands of jobs are available nationwide.  
Help support your community — be a census taker.

✓ Extra income

✓ Flexible hours

✓ Weekly pay

✓ Paid training

For more information or help applying, please call 1-855-JOB-2020  
Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339 TTY/ASCLII [www.gsa.gov/fedrelay](http://www.gsa.gov/fedrelay)  
The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Shape  
your future  
APPLY NOW > | **United States  
Census  
2020**

**We Buy Homes**  
**ANY CONDITION**  
**We Pay Cash for It!**  
Don't list it! Don't fix it!  
Don't clean it!  
Don't show it! Don't worry!  
Call Sean for more information:  
**216-906-4282**  
[gogettaproperties06@yahoo.com](mailto:gogettaproperties06@yahoo.com)



**CHOOSING THE RIGHT HIGH SCHOOL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP YOU CAN TAKE FOR YOUR FUTURE**

# 2020-21 CMSD HIGH SCHOOL CHOICE FAIR

**Choose your school NOW through March 13**

**Thursday, January 30**

East Professional Center  
1349 East 79th St, Cleveland

**Thursday, February 6**

Max S. Hayes High School  
2211 West 65th St, Cleveland

5:30 – 7:30 pm

**ChooseCMSD.org | 216.838.3675**

**FREE** college and trade school  
tuition scholarships for four-year CMSD grads!  
**SayYesCleveland.org**