



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
 Wednesday, March 18, 2020, West Side Market, W. 25th and Lorain Avenue: David Shull stands ready to sell fresh fruit at Greg's Produce. The stand, along The Basketeria, both located at the rear of the produce section by the parking lot, are now offering drive through pick up. Customers call ahead at 216-210-6802 to place an order and get the cost. Shull says, "One lady had cash in the trunk." The two stands are jointly owned by Greg Shuck.

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Access to water is crucial for slowing the advance of Coronavirus, COVID-19

by Chuck Hoven

The Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic has brought into focus the impact of poverty on the preparedness of Cleveland to address basic needs of the city's population for health care, housing, education, food, water, heat, electricity, telephone connectedness, internet access, and access to the media for

information about resources.

While all these issues are important to address when Cleveland leaders set priorities, let us focus for now on impact of not having access to water on health care.

NEWS ANALYSIS

A December 4, 2019 report by the Center for Community Solutions titled, "The poorer your neighbor-

hood, the shorter your life" notes how the conditions in your community "influence how healthy you will be and how long you will live." Indeed, media reports on some of the policy measures that Cleveland and Cuyahoga County are putting in place as a result of the pandemic highlight some of the hardships that Cleveland residents endure because of poverty and how they may present a threat to their health.

One critical way to slow down the advance of the coronavirus COVID-19, or colds and flu for that matter, is to be able to wash your hands frequently with soap and water. This is difficult to do if your water has been shut off because you got behind on the bill.

On Friday, March 13, Sam Allard reported in the *Cleveland Scene* in an article titled "City of Cleveland to Halt Water and Power Shutoffs, Restore Connections" that Mayor Frank Jackson announced in a March 11th press conference that the City of Cleveland will "temporarily halt all water and electric power shutoffs (Cleveland Public Power) and will restore service to those water and power have been disconnected."

On March 27, Ron Regan, reporting for *Channel 5 News* in a report titled, "Cleveland restoring water, but thousands may remain without during coronavirus crisis" noted that "532 customers have had their water restored." However, he noted that it continued on page 4

West Side Market remains open to serve Cleveland grocery shoppers

by Bruce Checefsky

The United West Side Market Tenants Association sent a message to its customers on Friday, March 13, indicating that the market will remain open for as long as possible. Don Whitaker, President of the



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
 Wednesday, March 18, 2020, West Side Market, W. 25th and Lorain Avenue: Don Whitaker of D. W. Whitaker Meats cuts up and packages poultry for a customer. Whitaker, President of the United West Side Market Tenants Association (UWSMTA) says in response to the COVID-19 virus concerns, market tenants are taking extra measures to keep customers safe. Whitaker says UWSMTA is encouraging vendors to offer call-ahead ordering for customers.

United West Side Market Tenants Association (UWSMTA), said in the statement, "We understand the growing concern surrounding the COVID-19 virus. At this time, the West Side Market plans to remain open, and is committed to taking

the extra steps to keep our customers safe. In addition to the existing cleaning practices we have in place, we are coordinating with all vendors to ensure extra measures be taken, including increasing the frequency of continued on page 6



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Wednesday, March 18, 2020, Buhrer Dual Language School, 1600 Buhrer Avenue: Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) Bus Driver Venetia Draper would like to let Cleveland children know that buses are available to provide round trip transportation from the CMSD school nearest their home to a school where they can pick up a lunch and breakfast.

Cleveland Metropolitan School District sites offer carryout meals for Cleveland children

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) website at clevelandmetroschools.org has the following message: "As part of efforts to contain the spread of the Coronavirus, or COVID-19, Gov. Mike DeWine ordered the closure of all Ohio schools for a three-week period, starting March 17. During this difficult time, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District is taking steps to help support students and families: 1). The District is providing carryout meals to students 18 and younger at 22 school sites, as well as shuttle service to the sites."

A flier available on the CMSD website lists the twenty-two meal carryout meal sites that are open Monday thru Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For students who would like to take a shuttle bus to the meal site, the flier also lists times and locations for shuttle buses that pickup students at other schools to take them to and from the sites where meals are being passed out. Students can also obtain take home

academic materials from these sites or view them online.

While the original school closure period is from March 17 to April 3rd. That time period will likely be extended as projections of Coronavirus or COVID-19 show no signs of letting up by April 3rd. It would be safe to assume that bagged meal distribution will continue after April 3rd.

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District has set up a dedicated Coronavirus COVID-19 Webpage at: <https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/Coronavirus>. The Website contains daily updates and resources outlining the supports that CMSD has in place for students and their families, and also information about its 22 Student/Family Meal Sites.

Below are the schools in the *Plain Press* service area where Cleveland children ages 18 and under, regardless of what school they attended, can pick up bagged meals to take continued on page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Wednesday, March 18, 2020, City Life Center, 3340 Trowbridge Avenue: Staff and volunteers at the City Life Center prepare to pass out dinners packaged for Cleveland children with meat and vegetarian options. Pictured are: Jamie Kinnett, Xavier Bay, Javon Wellson, Jonny Fine, Roshell Whetstone, Erin Domer and Camille Jucutan. City Life Director Jonny Fine says the dinners were made possible through donations from area churches and restaurants. Fine says the City Life Center plans to distribute dinners Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 5550 Clark Avenue: Clark School Cafeteria Worker Melissa Ansel passes out packaged breakfasts and lunches to neighborhood children from the back of Clark School.

ARTS

VIRTUAL PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT HONORING OHIO'S WOMEN VETERANS, *I Am Not Invisible*: Visit OhioVets.gov to read the stories behind their journeys during and after military service.

BENEFITS

HOW TO APPLY FOR PUBLIC BENEFITS: Visit www.benefits.ohio.gov to apply for food, medical, cash, and childcare assistance. Available 24 hours, 7 days a week. Or call the Eligibility Contact Center at 1-844-640-OHIO (6446) for real-time eligibility and case changes for food, cash and medical assistance. Available Monday - Friday 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

MEDICAID: Medicaid patients can use telehealth services even for first time visits. **REDETERMINATIONS ARE SUSPENDED FOR 180 DAYS.** Medicaid Benefits will not be lost if the renewal process is not able to be completed. **SNAP AND OHIO WORKS FIRST: REDETERMINATIONS ARE SUSPENDED FOR SIX MONTHS.** Meaning if benefits were supposed to expire in March they now expire in September, April they now expire in October, and for May they will expire in November. **FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 216-987-7000 OR VISIT THE COUNTY WEBSITE AT: cifs.cuyahogacounty.us/** **INTERVIEW ABOUT YOUR BENEFITS:** Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality wants to hear about your experiences applying for or renewing your benefits like food stamps or Medicaid. To get information to improve the system, they are doing short interviews with people on benefits. If you can do a brief interview, contact Jacie at jacie@organizeohio.org or call (216) 651-2606.

BUSINESS & LABOR

OHIO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS: Visit unemployment.ohio.gov.

THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH CALL CENTER is available for residents to report concerns regarding non-essential businesses and for essential businesses to inquire about maintaining social distancing practices. If you feel that your place of business is improperly remaining open, or if you wish to file a complaint about what you think are unsafe practices at a place of business please contact the CCBH by phone at 216-201-2000 between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION continues to enforce the nations' employment non-discrimination laws. To begin the process of filing a charge of discrimination, employees and applicants are encouraged to visit the EEOC Public Portal at publicportal.eeoc.gov to schedule an intake appointment by telephone. The system can also be accessed by going directly to our website at www.eeoc.gov. Anyone who cannot use the portal can call the EEOC at 1-800-669-4000 to begin the process of filing a charge.

CHURCHES

THE SHROUD OF TURIN - A GALLERY OF IMAGES and other artifacts in the Passion of the Lord Jesus Christ. It

will be held in the Community Center of Trinity Lutheran Church, W. 30th & Lorain, on April 3rd and 4th. Times for viewing will be from 10am to 4pm on both days. Admission is free. The Community Center is located at the end of the cul-de-sac on West 30th St (behind Wendy's). Free will donations accepted. For more information call 216-688-0040.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND: offers daily mass livestreamed at 9:30 a.m. or on demand at other times at dioceseofcleveland.org

CITY SERVICES

BULK PICKUP: City of Cleveland has cancelled all bulk garbage pick-up for the month of April.

COMMUNITY

CLEVELAND PANDEMIC RESPONSE - COVID-19 COMMUNITY HUB, at Cleveland.recovers.org, offers assistance to individuals and families with a need by linking you to goods and services that you need. The site also connects those who want to donate supplies to those that need them. Volunteers can also use the site to connect with organizations that need them.

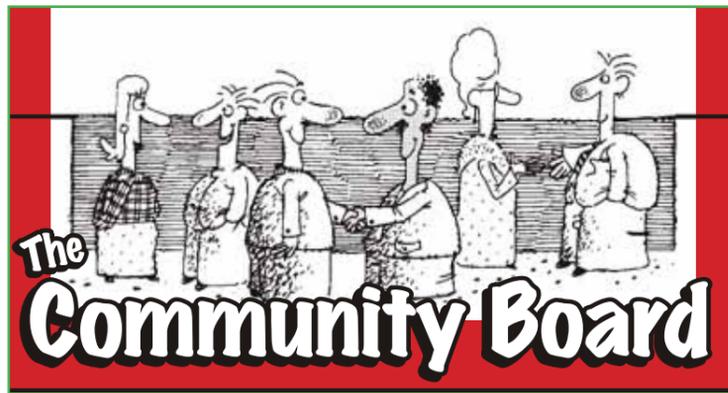
CONNECTED IN CLE offers a comprehensive list of local resources and help for COVID-19. Link via freshwatercleveland.com. **CUDELL IMPROVEMENT,** which serves the Cudell and Edgewater neighborhoods, plans to update a list of resources that includes food, financial assistance and education for children at cudell.com/coronavirus. The resource list is printable, so it can be printed out and shared with neighbors that do not have digital access. Cudell Improvement is also updating a list of Cudell and Edgewater restaurants still open for delivery and take-out at cudell.com/food.

SOCIAL MEDIA SITES FOR OHIO CITY NEIGHBORHOOD: #OHCNeighborGames2019; #OHCCCommunityConversation2019; Facebook: Ohio City incorporated; Twitter: @OhioCityTweets; and Instagram: @OhioCityInc.

PLAIN PRESS COMMUNITY BOARD: To list free events and services in the Plain Press Community Board - send information you would like printed to: plainpress@gmail.com.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESOURCES

CUYAHOGA COUNTY DATA: Cuyahoga County Epi-curve data and the number of lab-confirmed cases of Coronavirus COVID-19 in each Cuyahoga County zip code will be presented each Friday by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Presenting epi-curve and confirmed cases by zip code each Friday will allow the Board of Health to demonstrate the evolution of case counts over time. The daily



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.

case overview for Cuyahoga County is available at ccbh.net/coronavirus. As of Friday March 27 the number of lab confirmed cases living in each of zip codes 44102 and 44113 were in the range of 2 to 3 cases; the number of lab confirmed cases in each of the zip codes 44019 and 44111 were between 4 and 5 cases. Zip Code 44144 had between 0 and 1 cases. Lakewood, zip code 44107 was listed as having between 6 and 9 lab tested cases. The zip codes in Cuyahoga County with the highest registered number of cases (ranging from 10-16 cases per zip code) were zip codes 44118, 44121, 44124, 44022 and 44133. Since testing has been limited, the data is incomplete. Currently testing is prioritized for those who are hospitalized, individuals in communal living facilities, such as long-term care and nursing facilities, health care workers, and first responders.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>, offers information on the coronavirus (COVID-19): how to protect yourself, what to do if you think you are sick, resources for the community, information on the incidence of infections throughout the United States and information for healthcare professionals.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH updates its website regularly with helpful information and regular updates on COVID-19 in Ohio visit: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/>. If the web doesn't work for you, the State has a call center to answer all of your COVID-19 questions. Call 1-833-4-ASKODH, or 1-833-427-5634 any day of the week between the hours of 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH'S website, <https://www.ccbh.net/>, offers regular updates on COVID-19 and other useful information. To call the Cuyahoga County Board of Health please use the general number 216-201-2000.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY CORONAVIRUS HELP LINE: 440-59-COVID (440-592-6843).

CUYAHOGA COUNTY has launched a new multilingual website in partnership with Global Cleveland and MetroHealth centered around enhancing accessibility to information and resources related to the coronavirus pandemic in both Cuyahoga County and the U.S. The site provides resources in five languages: Arabic, Chinese, Nepali, Russian and Spanish. These languages were selected based on the diverse populations in Cuyahoga County. Various resources are available to residents whose first language is not English. Each language has a MetroHealth hotline for residents to speak with a representative in their primary language. The site also contains a variety of fact sheets in Arabic, Chinese and Spanish centered around facts about COVID-19, what to do if you're sick, how to help stop the spread of germs, and symptoms of coronavirus. Video resources on the site include how to enable subtitles on YouTube videos, footage from the thrice-weekly Cuyahoga County Board of Health Media Briefings and Governor DeWine's daily press conferences. The multilingual site can be found on the Cuyahoga County website at cuyahogacounty.us. It will be updated with new resources as they become available.

CONSUMER

PARATRANSIT SURVEY: Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality

(NOBLE) is conducting a survey regarding Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) paratransit rider experiences in an effort to improve paratransit services. If you or someone that you know utilizes paratransit and would be open to hearing more about and/or taking the survey please contact our organizer, Britney Madison at BMadison@organizeohio.org or 330-571-3333.

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.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER 24 Hour Helpline: 216-391-HELP (4357).

DONATIONS

CUYAHOGA COUNTY is encouraging medical practices such as veterinary clinics, dentists, elective surgery centers, and other non-essential medical providers to donate surplus Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to support first responders and critical operations occurring in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. A collection point has been established at the Cuyahoga County Public Works Garage located at 2501 Harvard Ave. Newburgh Heights, OH 44105. The hours of operation for the collection point will be Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Unopened boxes of the following items will be accepted: N95 masks, Surgical masks, Gowns, Eye protection, Face shields, Nitrile gloves, Disinfecting wipes, and Hand sanitizer. For additional information or questions, please email: resl@cuyahogacounty.us.

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.

EDUCATION

SCHOOL CLOSURES EXTENDED UNTIL MAY 1ST: Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Action announced on Monday March 30th that school closures have been extended until May 1st because of continued concerns about the spread of the coronavirus.

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT: Visit the website for educational resources and updates at www.clevelandmetroschools.org.

CHARTER OFFERS FREE SPECTRUM INTERNET ASSIST AND SPECTRUM BROADBAND including in-home Wi-Fi to new subscriber households with K-12 and/or college students as well as teachers for 60 days. Free self-installation kits will be offered to new subscriber households. To enroll call 1-844-488-8395.

CHARTER has opened WiFi hotspots across their footprint for public use. A map of the Charter hotspots is available at: www.spectrum.com/wifi-hotspots.

CLEVELAND METROPARKS OFFERS FREE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM ON FACEBOOK LIVE: Mondays through Fridays at 11 a.m. visit [\[Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's Facebook Page\]\(https://www.facebook.com/ClevelandMetroparks\) to join our biologists who are working to secure a future for wildlife at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Check-in with your favorite Zoo animals and learn about what it takes to care for some of the most endangered species in the world. Then, at 1 p.m., visit \[Cleveland Metroparks Facebook Page\]\(https://www.facebook.com/ClevelandMetroparks\) to join our park naturalists as we explore the Emerald Necklace and look for early signs of spring, learn about the forest floor, birds and more.](http://Cleveland Met-</p>
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OHIO PUBLIC TELEVISION STATIONS are now offering Pre-K to 12 education programming on TV or online at pbslearningmedia.com. For more information visit coronavirus.ohio.gov/learnathome.

CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY offers programming and educational materials in its new digital series "CMNH@HOME". The programs are available at cmnh.org or facebook.com/goCMNH/. New episodes will be available on Mondays (Museum Mondays), Wednesdays (Wildlife Wednesdays) and Saturdays (Scientist Saturdays) at noon.

ELECTION

VOTE BY MAIL EXTENDED UNTIL APRIL 28TH: The Ohio Legislature passed a bill extending voting by mail for the March 17th Primary Election until April 28th. Voters can request vote-by-mail ballots until 4/25 Absentee ballots must be postmarked no later than 4/27, or they can be dropped off at vote centers by 4/28. The Secretary of State's office will mail voters a postcard with information about how to request a vote-by-mail application. However, they will not be mailing out postage-paid vote-by-mail applications. There will be limited in-person voting, but only for those with disabilities and for some without access to the postal service like the homeless. Voters can obtain vote-by-mail applications by calling the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at 216-443-8683 or by printing out an application their website at: boe.cuyahogacounty.us.

VOTING FOR DISABLED AND HOMELESS: if you are a registered voter and have a disability or are homeless, you may vote in-person on April 28, 2020 at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, 2925 Euclid Avenue, between 6:30am-7:30pm.

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

FOOD

MAY DUGAN CENTER, 4100 Bridge Ave., Cleveland, provides free meals every fourth Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon.

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ATTENTION PLAIN PRESS READERS

Please feel free to pick up extra copies of the *Plain Press* to drop on a neighbor's or friend's porch. The *Plain Press* distribution crew will monitor many of our distribution points and provide additional newspapers as they run out. Thank you for helping to bring the *Plain Press* to those who are staying at home.

Mayor Frank Jackson announces Cleveland Public Power moratorium on shutoffs

CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE HAD POWER SHUTOFF CAN REQUEST SERVICE BE RESTORED

by Delaney Jones and Jacie Jones

This article is the fourth in a series based on issues that came out of the Cleveland End Poverty Now Coalition's October 17th, 2019 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. The second

highlighted the lack of due process and proper notification. The third article focused on the absence of affordable payment plans. This article will discuss CPP's recent commitment to reconnecting power for those shut off due to COVID-19 concerns. Future articles will discuss 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.

On March 13th, Mayor Frank Jackson announced that city water and power departments (which includes CPP) will temporarily cease turning off service to residents until further notice. This was part of an effort to address growing concerns and threats to the safety

and wellbeing of Clevelanders due to COVID-19.

In addition, customers who already have their power shut off can request to have their service restored, even if they are still arrears in their payments.

However, there is nothing on the CPP website that provides any information as to how an individual resident or family can get their power turned back

on. In fact, although their website states that they will not be turning any more CPP customers' power off, they do not mention the restoration policy.

CPP's commitment to a temporary moratorium on shutoffs and restoration of service to those disconnected represents an important recognition of the gravity of threats to safety and wellbeing that this outbreak presents for Cleveland's most vulnerable populations. These steps are essential for the wellbeing of many CPP customers.

Still, they apparently do not want to fulfill their commitment to restore the power as promised to residents who have been previously shut off. The End Poverty Now Coalition has formally asked CPP to send a physical mailing to the addresses of all customers who are currently shut off, explaining information on how they can go about getting reconnected.

In the meantime, almost all CPP customers without power are unaware of this opportunity. If you are a CPP customer currently without power, call CPP at 216-664-4600 to discuss options for the restoration of service.

If you have had your power turned and you call to have it restored, the End Poverty Now Coalition would like to hear your experiences in getting it restored. You can email jacie@organizeohio.org or call (216) 651-2606.

COVID-19 concerns present many unknowns for the future. It is possible that we will hit a point in which safety concerns have been mitigated and CPP returns to their normal policies and operations. At that time, it is possible that we could see an extremely high number of shutoffs due to lack of payment during this tumultuous period where many people are losing income and making difficult decisions about what bills to pay and what to put off.

Looking forward, it will be important that as we move out of a state of emergency and transition back to more normal operations, CPP must implement a grace period in which financial forgiveness and reasonable repayment plans are made available.

In prioritizing immediate needs, it is imperative that CPP inform all customers without power that they can have their service reconnected. As a community, we must do everything we can to take care of our most vulnerable members. Having electricity is one key aspect to build a just and humane society.

Editor's Note: Delaney Jones and Jacie Jones are Organize Ohio staff members working with the Cleveland End Poverty Now Coalition.

Cuyahoga County Job and Family Services receives guidance to extend food and cash assistance recertifications and postpone Medicaid renewals

New guidance from the State of Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Ohio Department of Medicaid, issued because of the Coronavirus pandemic, will allow Cuyahoga County to extend recertification periods and reporting periods for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Ohio Works First (OWF), and Medicaid.

Under Section 2302 of H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the US Department of Agriculture has granted Ohio a SNAP Waiver on Extending Recertification Periods and Periodic Reporting (Interim Reports) through May 31, 2020. To align the policy among SNAP and OWF, ODJFS will also extend certification periods for households receiving OWF, including child-only assistance groups.

SNAP benefits for households scheduled to expire in March, April and May 2020, are being extended 6 months until September, October and November 2020. Assistance groups with Interim Reports due in March, April or May 2020 will have due dates extended until after May 2020.

Additionally, ODJFS has established the temporary procedure for county Job and Family Service agencies to accept verbal signatures over the telephone to maintain compliance with the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), which require the SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) program employability plan to be signed as well as the Ohio Works First/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Sanction Compliance Agreement.

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) has issued guidance that county Job and Family Service agencies suspend Medicaid renewals for a period of 180 days. Medicaid coverage will not be lost because the renewal process was not able to be completed.

"The adjustment of these procedures will allow Cuyahoga Job and Family Services (CJFS) to focus efforts on processing new Medicaid applications and prevent closures and delays on much needed food assistance for the residents of Cuyahoga County," stated Kevin Gowan, Administrator for Cuyahoga Job and Family Services.

Individuals affected by these temporary changes to procedure will be notified by mail. There is no need to call the Eligibility Contact Center to

renew Medicaid benefits or to recertify SNAP and OWF benefits. New applications for SNAP, OWF, and Medicaid can be submitted online at www.benefits.ohio.gov. The Eligibility Contact Center at 1-844-640-OHIO (6446) is available to apply for SNAP, OWF and Medicaid and to report changes to existing cases such as change of income, adding or removing people from a household, etc.

For additional information, follow CJFS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), as social media is being used to provide more frequent updates, information on accessing benefits through self-service options and information in various languages. The CJFS website also provides information regarding process changes and resources related to COVID-19.

Cleveland Department of Public Health Director offers advice to Cleveland Residents and Visitors:

As you are all aware, the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has spread across the globe and throughout the U.S., including in Ohio. On March 14th, 2020, Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson announced the first confirmed case here in the City of Cleveland.

While the Mayor and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine have already made announcements that will temporarily change our day-to-day lives, I want to assure you that the Cleveland Department of Public Health is working tirelessly to try to keep as many people healthy as possible. Along with our partners, we are also working alongside of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to closely monitor COVID-19 and employee containment and mitigation strategies.

We understand that these are challenging times and that it's natural for people to ask what they can do to protect themselves and those around them.

We ask that you heed to any orders that are made by the Mayor and the Governor, such as banning gatherings of 100 or more people and closing bars and restaurants, as this is being done to preserve the health of our friends and family.

If you develop a fever and have a dry cough or are experiencing shortness of breath, please call your healthcare provider immediately BEFORE you visit

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ohioans urge public officials to break their silence on COVID-19 racism

1,350+ Ohio Organizations, Individuals, and Elected Officials Call on Ohio Leaders to Speak Out Against Rise in Anti-Chinese and Anti-Asian Racism

To the Editor:

A diverse coalition of 149 Ohio organizations and over 1,200 individual Ohioans, including 20 elected officials, signed on to a public letter urging Ohio public officials to take a stand against the increase in racist attacks and discrimination towards Chinese and Asian/American American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. The letter was sent to Governor DeWine, state legislators, local city council members, and other public officials.

This is the first letter of its kind that has received such widespread support in Ohio. The letter states that the rise in anti-Chinese and anti-Asian violence and stigma demands urgent action from Ohio's public officials, causing harm to immigrant and refugee communities while undermining critical public health efforts. "Throughout American history, we've seen immigrants and communities of color unfairly targeted in times of national crisis. We want Ohio to be on the right side of history," said Tessa Xuan, Chair of Ohio Progressive Asian Women's (OPAWL). "Our leaders need to actively combat racism against AAPI children and adults, many of whom are on the front line of the pandemic working in our hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores. Ohioans of all races have come together to urge our state's leaders to stand against racism as we all work to fight COVID-19. The health and wellbeing of all Ohioans and our future generations depends on it."

Silence from Ohio's public officials allows racist rhetoric and violence to spread unchecked, making our communities less safe and undermining our collective efforts to address the rapidly evolving crisis. At least 350,000 Ohioans have Chinese, Asian, or Pacific Islander heritage. Only a small

number of elected officials in Ohio have publicly spoken out against COVID-19 related racism. We hope this letter urges a wider response of solidarity against discrimination in our state.

The spread of racialized violence and stigma is likely to grow and worsen. Yesterday, the online reporting forum Stop AAPI Hate shared over 650 racist acts experienced by AAPIs over the last week. Ohioans need to hear public officials denounce the fear and stereotyping that divides us and embolden Ohioans to unite and face this crisis together. We need leadership grounded in truth and committed to openly opposing racism in any form.

Ohio Progressive Asian Women's Leadership

Editor's Note: Ohio Progressive Asian Women's Leadership (OPAWL) is a grassroots community that organizes for social justice and elevates the voices, visibility, and progressive leadership of Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women and non-binary (gender non specific) people in Ohio.



St. Barbara Church

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www.tinyurl.com/SaintBarbara

Jesus Christ is Lord –
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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 5550 Clark Avenue: (L-R) Clark School Security Guard Robin Kooper and Cafeteria Workers Debbie Seville and Melissa Ansel are prepared for children to come and pickup packaged breakfasts and lunches. The Cleveland Metropolitan School District plans to continue to provide packaged breakfasts and lunches to all Cleveland children under age 18 during this period when state has mandated school closures to help prevent the spread of the corona virus (COVID-19).

ACCESS TO WATER

continued from page one

was still unclear how many people still remained without water service.

The City of Cleveland is not alone in suspending water shutoffs during the pandemic. *The Guardian Weekly* reported on March 16 in an article titled "90 US cities and states suspend water shutoffs to tackle coronavirus pandemic" that "The expanding list of public utilities ordering a moratorium on shutoffs means about 57 million Americans in cities including Cleveland, Memphis and San Diego will be protected from losing their water service during the pandemic."

The Guardian Weekly article quoted Michigan Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence as saying, "Suspending water shutoffs is the right thing to do. But, reconnecting every household in the country is essential during this emergency in which handwashing is a primary measure to stop the spread."

While it is good public policy to

avoid water shutoffs during a pandemic, Cleveland should find a way to make sure there is assistance for all residents going forward to help them keep their water running. Certainly, a city that can afford to give \$30 million in subsidies to a multi-billion-dollar enterprise, such as Sherwin Williams, can come up with subsidies to provide assistance to residents, so no Cleveland resident finds themselves living in a house without water. Being able to wash your hands, or take a shower is not only a public health issue during a pandemic, but at all times.

The City of Cleveland should also examine its policy of adding \$8.75 to each monthly water bill as a Waste Collection Fee. This contributes to higher water bills with costs unrelated to water usage. The City of Cleveland should find a way to fund garbage collection other than its water bills. Traditionally, prior to the roll out of the new garbage and recycling containers, garbage collection had been paid for through the city's general fund, largely from payroll and property taxes. Resi-

dents should address their concerns to Ward 16 Councilman Brian Kazy, newly appointed Chairperson of the Cleveland City Council's Utilities Committee, and to their local City Council representative.

Why should we provide assistance to keep water running in all Cleveland homes? Not having the hammer of the threat of water shutoff hanging over their heads may cause some to delay paying their water bill, but increasingly cities across the nation have found cost effective ways to provide Customer Assistance Programs to ensure water service to customers is maintained. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in a report on its website titled "Drinking Water and Wastewater Utility Customer Assistance Programs," outlines a number of types of Customer Assistance Programs in use in other cities around the country.

The EPA report says, "Drinking water and wastewater utilities across the country are changing the way they do business to help all members of their communities maintain access to vital drinking water and wastewater services, while also protecting the utilities' bottom lines."

Speaking of the Customer Assistance Programs the report says:

These programs help households address issues with affordability and help protect public health throughout the community. They also help ensure the utility can sustainably provide its core services, price services appropriately, and

NOBLE urges Clevelanders to respond to the Census

The 2020 Census is happening now. You can complete your questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail.

Your Invitation to Respond

The time is now. Help shape your future, and your community's future, by responding to the 2020 Census.

Homes received their invitation to respond to the 2020 Census between March 12-20. These official Census Bureau mailings include detailed information and a Census ID for completing the Census online. **YOU CAN TAKE THE CENSUS ONLINE RIGHT NOW AT: <https://my2020census.gov/>**

How to Respond

You can choose to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. Find out more about each of these methods by 2020census.gov and going to: Online Response Guide; Phone Response Guide; or Paper (Mail) Response Guide.

A complete and accurate count is essential to the well-being of

our communities as it directs how many congressional districts each state receives and determines how critical federal funds like Community Development Block Grants are to be distributed.

All residents, citizen or not should be filling out the form. We have heard many times from the Census Bureau that our personal information is PRIVATE and will not be passed on to ICE or any other government organization. Information will only be passed on in the aggregate with no names or address attached.

We must all be counted. We must do everything we can to be sure that our friends, family members and others in our network and communities get the word and be encouraged to respond ASAP.

Like voting, this is another way that our voices can be heard!

Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE) urges you to please dig out that mailing now and get online today! For more information on the Census visit <https://2020census.gov> or census.ohio.gov. **EVERYONE COUNTS! BE COUNTED, ANSWER THE 2020 CENSUS!**

preserve a broad customer base.

Offering a reason for the Customer Assistance Programs the EPA report says:

... a water service customer facing disconnection, also faces immediate health and safety threats. Therefore, water utilities across the United States have demonstrated a commitment to helping low-income customers and customers in crisis delay and avoid disconnection. Many communities have decided that each resident should have the same access to clean and safe water that everyone else in the community enjoys, even if paying for the service is beyond their immediate means. It is water's special status as essential to public health that makes ensuring access more than a charitable cause.

The EPA report says Customer Assistance Programs benefit both customers and communities. Through these programs, customers are able to:

...address issues with affordability; retain or restore access to water services crucial to their daily life; avoid penalties and fees; and avoid the health threats, inconvenience, and stigma of water service disconnection.

The EPA report says that the Customer Assistance Programs benefit utilities by:

1) offering an opportunity to practice corporate responsibility - including improving public health and environmental quality; 2) improving public relations; and 3) improving financial

health by reducing administrative and legal costs associated with debt collection, disconnection and reconnection.

Types of Customer Assistance Programs offered around the country include: Bill Discounts; Flexible Terms; Lifeline Rate; Temporary Assistance and Water Efficiency.

The City of Cleveland should explore these programs and develop a program that prevents any resident from having their water shutoff. The City of Cleveland's current Customer Assistance Programs (see below) help some residents, but to address the long-term public health needs of Cleveland neighborhoods we need assistance programs that would prevent any resident from going without water in their household.

City of Cleveland currently has two discount programs available: The Homestead Discount Program and the Water Affordability Program. However, these programs are only available to persons who both own and live in the home where they are applying for the discount.

According to the City of Cleveland Division of Water website, the Homestead Discount Program is available to residents age 65 or older, or totally or permanently disabled, who both own and live in the property for which they are applying for the water bill discount. To qualify for the program residents must have a family income less than \$34,500 per year. Those who qualify for the program will reduce their fixed rate cost and their cost per thousand cubic feet of water. The fixed rate for Homestead Discount Program customers is currently \$5.80 per month as opposed to those not on the program who pay a fixed rate of \$9.20 per month. The cost for the first thousand cubic feet of water for Homestead Discount Program customers is \$14.20 as opposed to \$21.85 for those not in the program.

According to the City of Cleveland Division of Water website, "The Water Affordability Program offers a 40% discount on all standard water charges. This includes both the monthly fixed charge and the consumption charge." To be eligible for the program residents must both own and live in the home for which they are applying for assistance. They also must meet current income guidelines. For a single individual that means having an annual income of \$24,280 or less; for a two-person household, \$32,920 or less; 3 persons, \$41,560 or less; 4 persons, \$50,200 or less; 5 persons, \$58,840 or less; 6 persons plus, add \$8,640 for each additional household member. CHN Housing Partners administers the program. For more information or to apply for the program call 216-774-2349.

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MetroHealth offers resources to address questions and concerns about coronavirus COVID-19

We are sure you have questions and concerns about COVID-19, or coronavirus. The MetroHealth System is here to help and ready to answer your questions.

Do you have symptoms of COVID-19?

As a reminder, **COVID-19 symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath.** The incubation period is two to 14 days after exposure. The infection can be very mild to full-blown pneumonia, but it appears that 80% of cases are mild.

Step one: call our COVID-19 Hotline.

In order to avoid exposure to others, and for your safety and convenience, MetroHealth will conduct an immediate evaluation over the telephone. If a clinical assessment is deemed necessary, a telephone visit or video visit will be promptly scheduled for you with a dedicated provider.

What to expect during a telephone or video visit?

A provider will ask you questions and evaluate your symptoms. He or she will then give further medical advice and determine the best course of action, whether to receive further testing, come for an in-person visit, or to simply stay at home.

The Hotline number is **440-59-COVID (440-592-6843)**.

If you are unsure if you should seek medical attention for COVID-19 symptoms, please call the hotline at **440-59-COVID (440-592-6843)**.

For additional information about the situation, please go to the following websites: Center for Disease Control website at cdc.gov, or link at: Centers for Disease

Control—Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Ohio Department of Health at: coronavirus.ohio.gov or link at: Ohio Department of Health - Coronavirus updates page; or the MetroHealth COVID-19 Website at metrohealth.org or link at: Metro-Health COVID-19 Website. The MetroHealth website also contains information about where to get additional resources including food and medicine, resources to access if you are asked to quarantine yourself. You can also gain access the CDC Self checker through the MetroHealth website that includes the following information.

Watch for symptoms

Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases.

These symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure** (based on the incubation period of MERS-CoV viruses): Fever; Cough; and Shortness of breath

When to Seek Medical Attention

If you develop **emergency warning signs** for COVID-19 get **medical attention immediately**. Emergency warning signs include: Trouble breathing; Persistent pain or pressure in the chest; New confusion or inability to arouse; and bluish lips or face

*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Wednesday, March 18, 2020, Buhler Dual Language School, 1600 Buhler Avenue: Buhler School staff members Sherry Rowland and Lissette Cuevas prepared bags with breakfasts and lunches and they are ready for children to come and pick them up.

County warns residents of online COVID-19 and government relief check scams

Cuyahoga County Department of Consumer Affairs is warning residents to be extremely cautious handling texts, emails, and social media posts regarding COVID-19 and/or government relief checks.

Cuyahoga County residents have reported receiving scam texts that say: "... fill out this Census form so you can get you [sic] stimulus check. ...If you don't fill it out you will not receive a check in the mail."

These texts are bogus. The coronavirus stimulus relief program is entirely separate from the Census. Federal law prohibits Census information from being used for other government programs, and details of the federal coronavirus stimulus relief program haven't been worked out yet.

But worse, texts or posts like this may contain malware, which is a computer virus that can steal information and passwords from your phone or computer.

Law enforcement around the country are reporting an uptick in coronavirus-related email and social media scams, which coincide with large numbers of people working from home.

Some emails have been doctored to look like they come from the Centers for Disease Control or World Health Organization. "Even though some of these texts or posts may seem helpful, they are designed to harm us or our neighbors," said Sheryl Harris, Director of Consumer Affairs for Cuyahoga County. "We all have to be vigilant before we click on a link or share information."

Be extra cautious with emails or texts that: 1). Appear to be from a quarantined colleague or client requesting logging into a secure account or system. 2). Involve a higher-up, Human Resources rep or bank requesting emails with personal info about colleagues, including Social Security or banking info. 3). Ask you to help with an unexpected transfer of funds, particularly a transfer to foreign suppliers for the purchase of coronavirus medical equipment or supplies. 4). Request your passwords or Social Security numbers to sign up for coronavirus updates or information. 5). Promise you coronavirus-fighting tips or government money. 6). Urge you to

continued on page 7



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Wednesday, March 18, 2020, Buhler Dual Language School, 1600 Buhler Avenue: Grade level homework packets are available for K-8 children to pick up along with their bagged breakfasts and lunches.

CARRY OUT MEALS

continued from page one

home. The bags contain a lunch and a breakfast for the next day. The listing for each meal pickup site also contains information on times shuttle buses will leave for that site from other neighborhood schools.

Buhler Dual Language, 1600 Buhler Ave, Cleveland, 44109, 216.838-8350
Shuttle Pickup Location Address Times: Tremont 2409 W 10th St. 11:08 a.m.; Scranton 1991 Barber Ave. 11:15 a.m.; and Luis Munoz Marin 1701 Castle Ave. 11:22 a.m.

Clark, 5550 Clark Ave, Cleveland, 44102, 216.838.7300
Shuttle Pickup Location Address Times: Halle 7901 Halle Ave. 11:12 a.m.; and International Newcomers Academy 3145 W 46th St. 11:23 a.m.

Denison, 3799 W 33rd St, Cleveland, 44109, 216.838.3250.
Shuttle Pickup Location Address Times: Orchard 4200 Bailey Ave. 11:09 a.m.; and Walton 3409 Walton Ave. 11:17 a.m.

Garfield, 3800 W 140th St, Cleveland, 44111, 216.838.6300
Shuttle Pickup Location Address Time: Louis Agassiz 3595 Bosworth Rd. 11:18 a.m.

Louisa May Alcott, 10308 Baltic Rd, Cleveland, 44102, 216.838.6500

Shuttle Pickup Location Address Time: Joseph M Gallagher 6601 Franklin Blvd. 11:11 a.m.; and Marion C Seltzer 1468 W 98th St. 11:20 a.m.

Riverside 14601 Montrose Ave, Cleveland, 44111 216.838.6700

Shuttle Pickup Location Address Times: Almira 3375 W 99th St., 11:20 a.m.; and Wilbur Wright, 11005 Parkhurst Dr., 11:23 a.m.

Waverly, 1805 W 57th St, Cleveland, 44102, 216.838.7550

Shuttle Pickup Location Address Time, Garrett Morgan 4016 Woodbine Ave., 11:11 a.m., and Paul L Dunbar 2159 W 29th St. 11:19 a.m.

In addition to the Cleveland Metropolitan School District meal pickup sites, City Life Center at 3340 Trowbridge Avenue is distributing packaged dinners to Cleveland youth on Monday thru Friday from 1-3 p.m. They offer meat and vegetarian options. City Life Director Jonny Fine says the dinners were made possible through donations from area churches and restaurants.

For additional information about obtaining food or call the Greater Cleveland Food Bank Help Center at 216-738-2067 or visit their website at: www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org.

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Wednesday, March 18, 2020, West Side Market, W. 25th and Lorain Avenue: Tom McIntyre of Kate's Fish prepares a fish for a customer.

WEST SIDE MARKET

continued from page one

hand washing, glove changing, and sanitizing surfaces."

Whitaker assured customers that vendors will provide hand sanitizer at their stands and encourage employees to stay home if they are not feeling well.

"We are also encouraging our vendors to offer call-ahead ordering for customers. We will continue to monitor the situation, and work with the Market Manager and the City of Cleveland regarding recommended safety protocol."

Several days later, people were still busy buying food supplies but with far fewer tourists at the market

than normal, according to Tom McIntyre, owner of Kate's Fish. McIntyre is just one of the many West Side Market businesses affected by the pandemic virus and state-wide food service closings. When asked about whether the supply chain will continue to provide products, he explained that the fish supply chain which comes from the East Coast with truck shipments mainly from Boston, is in good working order. Imported fish, like Faroe Islands Salmon, Bronzini and Sea Bream from the Mediterranean Sea, is still being shipped

"We get multiple deliveries throughout the week," McIntyre said. "I haven't heard anything about shortages."

Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless launches COVID-19 Emergency Homeless Response campaign

The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH) has launched a **COVID-19 Emergency Homeless Response** campaign to swiftly act on the threat coronavirus poses to Cleveland's homeless population. People experiencing homelessness are one of the most at-risk populations during the pandemic. Currently, up to 2,000 people are staying in local shelters and over 200 people are experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Cleveland.

Among our many concerns, people experiencing homelessness cannot follow the leading recommendation of social distancing. Many have weak immune systems and live in congregate settings—like shelters or encampments—and the unsheltered population does not have regular access to hygiene supplies and showering facilities. There is also increased presence at local shelters due to Cleveland

Public Library closures and many drop in center, meal site, and church closures.

NEOCH is combining its direct service and advocacy efforts to fill emerging gaps. The campaign will: Provide temporary housing for unsheltered people who are affected by the virus; Provide homeless prevention assistance to avoid new entries to local shelters that are already at-capacity; Support NEOCH Outreach Collaborative teams that are in need of hand sanitizer, toilet paper, paper towels, bottled water, self-opening canned items, and ready-to-eat items.

At this time, there is no current federal or state-wide emergency financial support to specifically address the risk homelessness poses to the COVID-19 outbreak. NEOCH

is committed to responding quickly to this unprecedented crisis. The virus will have a disproportionate effect on people who are experiencing homelessness in our community and it is critical that we address the risk homelessness poses to the greater Cleveland area if it is not handled urgently.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SUPPORTING THE CAMPAIGN, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.NEOCH.ORG/COVID19

Editor's Note: The mission of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless is to organize and empower homeless and at-risk men, women and children to break the cycle of poverty through public education, advocacy and the creation of nurturing environments.

View the Plain Press online: www.plainpress.org

While supply is not an issue for now, the closing of restaurants and bars will have a negative impact on businesses like Kate's Fish. To compensate for the downturn in sales, McIntyre has adjusted by ordering lighter. He supplies a few local restaurants with fish, but most have little or no takeout business. Restaurants are expected to shutter in house dining for the duration until the governor decides to lift the ban. Some may never reopen. His customers, on the other hand, need fresh fish.

"People are buying salmon, tilapia, and cod, and fish like that," he said. "Come in and stock up. We're committed to staying open. Help keep us in business."

At the opposite end of the market at Frank's Bratwurst, Ilse Sheppard was leaning against the counter with her arms folded. The display

case was lined with fresh buns; steam rose from a pot of hot water. She was waiting for customers to arrive. Frank and Johanna Ratschki opened Frank's Bratwurst at the West Side Market in 1970. Three generations later, Ilse Sheppard and her sons continue to keep their family tradition alive by serving world famous bratwurst sandwiches.

With fewer than normal customers for a Monday morning, Ilse was concerned that business may fall off to levels unseen before. People are going to the local grocery stores and places like Costco to stock up on food and supplies by buying in bulk, she explained. Delivery services like Grub Hub and Hello Fresh will drive customers away from the West Side Market. Her insurance company might cover some of the financial loss due to the pandemic virus but she's not counting on it.

Local restaurants and bars face the same prospect with some likely not to survive.

"I have a sister in Austria where they've closed all of the borders. They're confined to their homes," she said, referring to the 'shelter in place policy' mandating that people stay indoors and isolate themselves except to attend to certain essential activities. "If you're out on the streets you'll get fined. We're wondering if that's going to come here."

Meat stands and poultry stands continue to do a brisk business. Chicken is the biggest seller, particularly because of its versatility and ease, but people are still weary of shopping.

"My deli cheeses sales were up but my imported cheeses didn't really move this weekend," said Alaina at the Cheese Shop. "Deli cheeses are more essential than fancy wine and cheese plates."

Natalia at Sebastian's Meats across the aisle from the Cheese Shop, agreed. "We saw the impact of the coronavirus on Sunday. Usually smokies (beef, chicken, or pork continued on page 7

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COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

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

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES AND HOTLINES: The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County mental health resources and hotlines: To reach Cuyahoga County's 24-Hour Warmline, call 440-886-5950 to talk with a peer, or text "4hope" to 741741. To reach the 24-hour Suicide Prevention, Mental Health/Addiction Crisis, Information and Referral Hotline, call: 216-623-6888.

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

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE: Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or visit 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

YMCA OFFERS FREE VIRTUAL VIDEO WORKOUTS: On-demand videos are now available on their website at www.clevelandymca.org. The videos are for people of all ages and can be accessed at no charge and can be done in the home with no special equipment.

BASEBALL HERITAGE MUSEUM @ baseballheritagemuseumcleveland is using Facebook and Instagram to post home-schooling help, baseball instruction tips, fun activities and links to other resources that will help keep you connected to the museum, baseball and each other.

REUNION

THE 1960 CLASS OF SAINT STANISLAUS HIGH SCHOOL will hold a reunion at the end of July 2020. For more information contact Reie Dix of the Alumni Committee at 216-357-2674.

SERVICES

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.

SUPPORT GROUPS

NATIONAL ALIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL (NAMI) GREATER CLEVELAND VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUPS: Please call the support group numbers below 5 or 10 minutes beforehand in case you run into any difficulty.

NAMI FAMILY GROUP (for family member, friend or caregiver of an adult with mental illness) Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. Join by calling 216-452-6841. You will be prompted to enter the following code: 391 639 233, then push pound (#) to continue.

NAMI FAMILY GROUP- DUAL DIAGNOSIS (for family member, friend or caregiver of persons with mental illness and substance use disorder). Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Join by calling 216-452-6841. You will be prompted to enter the following code: 391 639 233, then push pound (#) to continue.

NAMI PEER GROUP (for adults 18 & older living with mental illness). Thursdays from 3-4:30 p.m. Join by calling 216-307-8224. You will be prompted to enter the following code: 829 554 282, then push pound (#) to continue.

NAMI PEER GROUP (for adults 18 & older living with mental illness). Mondays from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Join by calling 216-352-6137. You will be prompted to enter the following code: 504 127 492, then push pound (#) to continue.

TAXES

INCOME TAX FILING DATES have been extended for both Federal and State income tax filings until July 15th. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) tax prep at the Gordon Square Arcade has been temporarily suspended. As an immediate alternate, you may file your taxes for free at myfreetaxes.com. Updates on in-person tax prep will be at refundohio.org.

TRANSPORTATION OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SEEKS FEEDBACK ON STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is now accepting public comments on the [Statewide Transportation Improvement Program](http://StatewideTransportationImprovementProgram) (STIP) for 2021 to 2024. The program identifies the multi-modal transportation improvement projects that are scheduled for some phase of implementation throughout the state over the next four years. The draft documents will be available for public review and comment online at transportation.ohio.gov during the review period of March 30, 2020, through April 10, 2020. Written comments must be received by the close of business on April 17, 2020. Any comments concerning the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program may be submitted online at transportation.ohio.gov, by email to Natasha.Turner@Natasha.Turner@dot.ohio.gov, or postal mail to: Mrs. Jennifer Townley, Deputy Director Division of Planning, Ohio Department of Transportation, Mail Stop # 3260, 1980 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223.

AVOIDING SCAMS

continued from page 5

"forward this to everyone you know" or tell you that the information was received from an insider or "a friend of a friend"

These sites can help you spot email and other coronavirus-related scams: The Federal Trade Commission COVID-19 scam-tracking site, ftc.gov/coronavirus; The Homeland Security at us-cert.gov or use one of the following links: [tips for handling email attachments](http://tipsforhandlingemailattachments); Homeland Security [tips for avoiding social engineering and phishing attacks](http://tipsforavoidingsocialengineeringandphishingattacks).

Report scams: Report suspicious texts by forwarding them to SPAM (7726). Report suspicious emails to <https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>. Report suspicious social media posts to the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov.

If you have questions about a scam, please contact Scam Squad at 216-443-SCAM (7226).

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Wednesday, March 18, 2020, West Side Market, W. 25th and Lorain Avenue: Ryan and Ilse Sheppard of Frank's Bratwurst prepare sandwiches for market shoppers.

WEST SIDE MARKET

continued from page 6 sticks that have been smoked for flavor) are one of those things people splurge on and sell well. We sold more deli meats than smokies and we made a third of what we usually make. Today, I had one customer between 9am and 10am."

Alaina and Natalia believe that the market should remain open. They don't want to see it end up closing like the restaurants and bars. "When the Governor provided instructions on social distancing, nobody listened," Alaina said. "That eventually led to the closing of the restaurants and bars. The West Side Market, on the other hand is a grocery store and

should remain open."

"We're taking extra precautions with customers, changing gloves between sales and sanitizing and disinfecting the counters and door handles. We want people to come and shop," she said.

"We all have to eat," Natalia added.

UWSMTA President Don Whitaker also believes the West Side Market needs to remain open especially now that the restaurants are closed. His stand, D. W. Whitaker Meats, ran out of meat over the weekend. "Even though the market doesn't look busy, people are buying," he said. "Our supply orders arrive every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We're almost sold out of our delivery from today."

In talks with the City of Cleveland about staying open, Whitaker suggested adding curbside service along Lorain Avenue. "People wouldn't have to get out of their cars".

"I'm nervous where this is going," he said. "I'd like to see the market

open more days, to extend our hours to Tuesday and Thursday, just to spread it out."

Mayor Frank G. Jackson and the City of Cleveland have confirmed in a statement released on March 17 that the West Side Market will remain open for now. "The West Side Market remains open as it is considered a grocery establishment. The governor has not provided additional directive regarding grocery stores."

Darnell Brown, Chief Operating Officer for the City of Cleveland was unavailable for a comment.

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