



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020; St. Augustine Church, 2486 W. 14th Street: St. Augustine Parishioner Tonja Barnett, who grew up in the neighborhood around St. Augustine Church, makes a trip in to pick up blessed palms.

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Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Neighborhood Family Practice moves quickly to provide telemedicine for its patients

by **Chuck Hoven**

Neighborhood Family Practice staff members are reaching out to let area residents know about their new telemedicine program, a program that has evolved due to necessity with the advent of the corona virus, COVID-19, pandemic. Neighborhood Family Practice President and Chief Executive Officer Jean Polster and Assistant Medical Director of Medical Informatics Dr. Chad Garven explained how the new telemedicine program is working in an April 23rd interview with three West Side

neighborhood newspapers -- the *Plain Press*, *The Tremonster* and *The West Park Times*.

Neighborhood Family Practice President and Chief Executive Officer Jean Polster says the telemedicine is available to all patients in all their programs – behavioral health, midwifery, and for primary health care services. She said Neighborhood Family Practice also is able to provide face-to-face services when needed. We have the ability to see you safely in six locations, she said. Dr. Garven explained that tele-

medicine ideally involves two-way audio and video connection with your healthcare provider. Historically, Ohio restricted such health care to patients in rural areas where there was not a lot of access to close by health care providers, he noted.

Dr. Garven said in mid-March it became “pretty clear, alarmingly fast” as the virus was spreading in Ohio that continuing having all patients coming in person would be unsafe, not only for the patients, but potentially for Neighborhood Family Practice staff as well.

The state regulations began to change. There was not a distance requirement any more for telemedicine. A patient could be near a provider, but on a virtual platform. A new state mandate restricted in-person visits for elective care due to the corona virus pandemic. Dr. Garven said a combination of safety concerns and the need to continue to serve Near West Side residents, led Neighborhood Family Practice, by virtue of necessity, to jump into telemedicine.

President and Chief Executive Officer Polster said prior to the risk from the corona virus Neighborhood Family Practice had been looking to use telemedicine for patients who may have difficulty traveling

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020; St. Augustine Church, 2486 W. 14th Street: Bob Duda of St. Augustine Parish places palms on a table in front of the rectory for people to pick up while keeping a safe distance from others. St. Augustine Church, along with other churches in Cleveland, was not holding services during the month of April due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020; St. Rocco Church, 3205 Fulton Road: Matt Milia, a longtime St. Rocco parishioner, picks up some blessed palms.

May Dugan Center shifts to teletherapy to continue its Trauma Recovery Service program during the COVID-19 pandemic

by **Chuck Hoven**

The May Dugan Center which offers programs and services for over 6,000 clients a year is shifting to offering some of its services remotely and calling clients at home to make sure they are ok. May Dugan Director of Programming and Evaluation Sue Marasco explains how one of its programs, counseling for those who have experienced trauma, has made a special effort to make sure it can still provide services to clients via teletherapy.

As part of the counseling services it offers, May Dugan offers a Trauma Recovery Service to victims of crime, or people who have witnessed a violent crime. Marasco says all crime victims and witnesses are welcome to the program “as long as we can provide service to them in a meaningful way.”

Marasco explained how the Trauma Recovery Service has moved

to doing teletherapy because of the restrictions on face-to-face meetings brought on by the advent of the corona virus COVID-19. She said that teletherapy is ideally done over a video screen. Marasco said that to assure everyone in the program would be able to participate with video and audio, May Dugan bought smart phones for participants in the program. Even though May Dugan had no funding for the purchase of the phones, Marasco said, the purchase was made because “we knew it was the right thing to do.” She acknowledged we “went fishing without a net,” but said May Dugan would graciously ask its supporters for donations to pay for the phones.

Marasco acknowledged that doing teletherapy can be difficult when people are trying to talk from their homes. The therapist must keep in mind that it might be tricky for a

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Local economy faces an uncertain future during the corona virus COVID-19 pandemic

by **Bruce Checefsky**

Sean Watterson is doing everything possible to keep his business from going under. As co-owner of the Happy Dog on Detroit Avenue in the Gordon Square arts district, he's responsible for 30-40 full and part-time employees all of which have been laid off since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The neighborhood corner bar, a favorite hangout for hip Clevelanders, and named Best Neighborhood Bar by *Cleveland Scene Magazine*, produces hundreds of live music events every year, from rock and country to punk and polka. Last year alone, his payroll supported more than 500 bands and 2000 musicians.

Public programs include Keep Talking: A Storytelling Show, Poetry Slams, and community building events with the City Club, Global Cleveland, International Partners in Mission, and the Northeast Ohio Consortium for Middle Eastern Studies (NOCMES). The Happy Dog serves over 50,000 hot dogs

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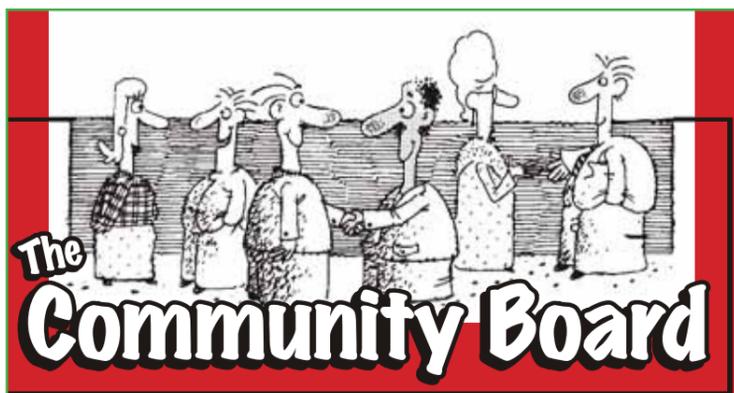


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
April 20, 2020; May Dugan Center, 4115 Bridge Avenue: May Dugan offers counseling services for those who have experienced trauma. For more information on May Dugan Center's Trauma Recovery Center please visit www.maydugancenter.org/trauma or call 216-631-5800.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020; St. Augustine Church, 2486 W. 14th Street; Mary and Leo Smith of St. Augustine Parish pick up some palms.



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.

ADVOCACY

KEEP COVID-19 OUT OF OHIO JAILS, PRISONS AND COURTS: Visit the Ohio Immigrant Alliance website at www.ohioimmigrant.org for a link to a petition.

ARTS

CUYAHOGA ARTS AND CULTURE now has applications for 2021 project support grants. It is also offering extensions for 2020 grants impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information visit www.cac-grants.org.

BUSINESS & LABOR

EMPLOYEES ONLY: offers assistance to laid off restaurant employees. To ask for assistance send an email to Mark Bailey at mark@employeesonlyneo.org or visit Employees Only on Instagram.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER offers technical assistance and information about financial resources for struggling small businesses. Call 216-452-9741, Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Assistance in applying for Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loans and other available financial assistance; consulting, help navigating unemployment insurance benefit applications, strategies for retaining and retraining employees. You can also access the resources online at www.cuyahogacounty.us.

OHIO UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS: Visit unemployment.ohio.gov (available 24 hours a day) or try calling 877-644-6562 or TTY -614-387-8408 - Monday thru Friday 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. or Saturdays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. or Sundays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION programs for the coronavirus, visit www.sba.gov/coronavirus and for information on all federal programs, visit www.usa.gov/coronavirus.

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING CUYAHOGA COUNTY DIVISION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY

SERVICES' CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE: 216-696-KIDS (5437). The Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services can also accept child abuse reports 24/7 through email at protecting-cuyahoga-kids@jfs.ohio.gov; via its website at <http://cfs.cuyahogacounty.us/en-us/Report-Child-Aubse-Neglect.aspx>;

CITY SERVICES

BULK PICKUP: City of Cleveland has cancelled all bulk garbage pickup for the month of May.

CLEVELAND WATER DEPARTMENT: In March, Mayor Frank Jackson announced Cleveland Water will suspend disconnections until further notice. Cleveland Water customers who have recently experienced disconnection should contact Cleveland Water at 216-664-3130 to discuss options for the restoration of service. As of April 24, Cleveland Water has restored service for 1,011 customers.

CLEVELAND PUBLIC POWER (CPP): In March, Mayor Frank Jackson announced Cleveland Public Power will suspend disconnections until further notice. CPP customers who have recently experienced disconnection should call 216-664-4600 to discuss options for the restoration of service. As of April 24, CPP has restored service for 85 customers.

ONLINE POLICE REPORT FILING: In an effort to keep officers safe and minimize exposure to the public, the Cleveland Division of Police has taken measures to ensure that members of the public can file police reports remotely for minor offenses. File online: <https://secure.coplogix.com>

MetroHealth to open new Ohio City Health Center on June 1st

MetroHealth announced on April 24th that its new MetroHealth Ohio City Health Center is scheduled to open on Monday, June 1, 2020. The new facility, located at 4757 Lorain Avenue on the campus of Urban Community School, will be replacing MetroHealth's Thomas F. McCafferty Health Center.

To prepare for the move, McCafferty will close on Friday, May 15, 2020. Many providers will continue to be available for telehealth visits during this time as well as

in-person appointments temporarily at MetroHealth's Main Campus. MetroHealth also has four Metro-ExpressCares urgent care clinics available for same-day needs. Visit their website at www.metrohealth.org for locations and hours.

Doctors, nurses and other staff from McCafferty are moving into the new Ohio City Health Center. The new Ohio City Health Center is just a few blocks away from McCafferty. It is in its own, separate building with its own parking lot. Parking is

free, and there is an RTA stop right in front of the building.

The Ohio City Health Center will offer expanded services, including MetroExpressCare, radiology, Legal Aid, WIC and more.

For more details about the Ohio City Health Center, including a complete list of doctors and clinicians moving, please visit metrohealth.org/ohio-city. You can also call MetroHealth with any questions at 216-957-4848.

com/dors/startreport/176231500. Report via phone daily from 7:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. 216-621-1234

COMMUNITY

CUDELL IMPROVEMENT AND DETROIT SHOREWAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION offer a list of resources at cudell.com/coronavirus or www.dscdo.org. The list includes free meals and free food banks and distributions in the Detroit Shoreway, Cudell and Edgewater neighborhoods. The organizations have also created a list of businesses selling take-out food. The list is available at www.dscdo.org/food.

METROWEST offers a list of resources for residents of the Brooklyn Centre, Clark Fulton and Stockyard neighborhoods on its website at www.metrowestcle.org.

OHIO CITY INCORPORATED lists local resources, information and delivery food options in the Ohio City neighborhood at www.ohiocity.org/covid19.

WESTOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION offers a list of resources for the Westown neighborhood on its website at: www.westowncdc.org.

OHIO CITY INCORPORATED (OCI) announced it has postponed both its annual meeting and election. A date has not been determined for the annual meeting. The organization has placed the slate of candidates and their applications on its website (ohiocity.org) along with its 2019 annual report. OCI has moved its office to 3808 Lorain Avenue.

CLEVELAND PANDEMIC RESPONSE - COVID19 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

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

CLEVELAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH has a new online dashboard for tracking coronavirus cases in the City of Cleveland. Visit clevelandhealth.org to check it out. As of April 24, there are 23 COVID-19 City resident fatalities and 556 confirmed cases of coronavirus in the City of Cleveland.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY CORONAVIRUS HELP LINE: 855-711-3035.

METROHEALTH 24/7 COVID-19 HOTLINE: 440-59-COVID or 440-592-6843

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER 24 Hour Helpline: call or text 216-391-HELP (4357) or live chat online at DVCAC.org/get-help.

EDUCATION

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS (AFT) and the AFL-CIO are offering free helpful lessons and tools for kids in pre-K through 12th grade who are now learning at home and coping with the COVID-19 pandemic. (these resources are intended to supplement what your child's teacher or school has already provided.) You can go to sharemylesson.com/coronavirus/parents to access lessons, online tools, resources and more.

INTERNET HOTSPOTS: Cleveland Public Libraries are all internet hotspots. To access go to their parking lot or sit just outside the building.

SCHOOL CLOSURES: Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced school buildings will be closed for the remainder of this school year.

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT: Visit the website for educational resources and updates at <https://www.cleveland-metroschools.org/Coronavirus>

FOOD

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH HUNGER CENTER offers home delivery of meals to those in need. To sign up call 216-781-5530.

MAY DUGAN CENTER, 4115 Bridge Ave., will host drive through food distribution on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FIRST CALL FOR HELP: For days, times and locations for free food distribution call 211.

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

VIRTUAL SUPPORT AND RECOVERY groups are available and listed on the ADAMHS Board website homepage at: adamhsc.org.

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 Preven-

tion, Mental Health/Addiction Crisis, Information and Referral Hotline, call: 216-623-6888.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT: call the COVID-19 Careline hosted by Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services at 1-800-720-9616.

SUPPORT AND INFORMATION ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH: live chat is available at NAMI Greater Cleveland Helpline. Live chat messages back and forth with NAMI Greater Cleveland Helpline staff at namigreatercleveland.org.

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.

PETS

CLEVELAND ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE offers help if you are struggling to feed your pet due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Contact free pet food delivery is available to Cleveland residents living in isolation during the pandemic. For more information visit clevelandapl.org or call 216-771-4616.

RECREATION

CLEVELAND METROPARKS: The Metroparks are open, some parking lots and roads have been closed to vehicles but are open to pedestrians and bicycles. Areas where it is difficult to keep proper physical distance such as the Edgewater Peer and the Forest Hill Stairs in Rocky River Reservation have been closed. For more information on areas that are closed visit: clevelandmetroparks.com.

REUNION

THE 1960 CLASS OF SAINT STANISLAUS HIGH SCHOOL will hold a reunion at the end of July

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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.

NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY PRACTICE

continued from page one

to a specialist's office or may need translation services. She said those patients often felt more comfortable in the Neighborhood Family Practice office, so the idea was for them to use telemedicine from the doctor's office to receive services from a specialist. Polster says the State of Ohio began to allow reimbursement for such specialty telemedicine back in July of 2019. Even then, there were restrictions of urban vs. rural for some services, she said.

As the corona virus danger became apparent, Polster says she has to give credit to Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Director of the Ohio Department of Health Dr. Amy Acton for allowing remote access to appointments, not only for behavioral health services which had been underway, but also for all health services for patients. "They threw all regulations aside and said, 'go for it, serve your patients in the best way you can.' And Chad, along with others, put his nose down to discover how we can continue to service patients," said Polster.

Polster says when the state restricted in person visits for elective care, it took Neighborhood Family Practice a week to make the pivot to telemedicine. "It would have taken months, if not years, to make that pivot in a non-crisis situation," she said.

Dr. Chad Garven explained how the transition to telemedicine was accomplished. Garven said Neighborhood Family Practice selected an existing health care video platform that was widely available and had the advantage of being easy software for both staff and patients to use.

"We needed an easy platform to use," Dr. Garven said. "We didn't want to be involved in coaching patients and staff about how to download software and applications (apps). We selected a paid platform, easy to use, and on a website. It is a video platform that is like using facetime, or skype, or zoom." He said patients' experience using the software is very similar to what they experience when going to the doctor's office. There is a registration process. There is a medical assistant that talks to them about their medical issues and medications. Dr. Gavin says, "It looks like everything for the visit is the same, except the patient is not in the building."

Dr. Garven says, it is "pretty remarkable" how quickly 90% of patient visits were able to shift to telemedicine. This is near our previous volume expectations for patient visits.

The ideal with telemedicine is to have both an audio and video link to patients through a computer, tablet or smart phone, said Dr. Garven. He

LETTER

A call for voting by mail

To the Editor:

Voting by mail should replace voting at the polls in its entirety. The two institutions that can definitely be trusted are the County Board of Elections and the United States Postal Service.

The money saved by eliminating the need for poll workers could be used to offer free postage on the envelopes used to vote by mail. The person voting would also have more time to consider what they are voting for and would not be confined to the hours of the polling place. It would also prevent unwanted entry to schools and churches from anyone trying to harm someone. In addition, the voter would not be harassed by someone trying to place unsolicited campaign literature into their hand.

The additional revenue would boost the Postal Service and perhaps keep it afloat until we as a country are able to vote online. Voting by mail would solve the registered voter problem and guarantee safe passage of the ballots to the County Board of Elections.

Joe Bialek, Cleveland

said about three out of four visits are video and audio. About 25% are audio only. He said even a high number of patients over the age of 60 had a smart phone, laptop, or tablet, or could borrow one from a family member for their appointment.

Any patient that calls in is offered an appointment. Previously, if you called your provider, you could get an appointment in a few days. There inherently was a delay in getting an appointment. Right now, anyone calling in is offered an appointment right away. If you want to talk about Corona virus – there is a platform for that. There is also a platform for people with chronic conditions. "It is interesting that we have been able to do more appointments in the last few weeks for patients with chronic conditions, like diabetes and hypertension, than we would have otherwise have been able to schedule without the telemedicine," said Dr. Garven.

There are some advantages to telemedicine. CEO Polster noted that many patients are hourly workers and making a doctor's appointment means taking time off work and losing pay. Others have difficulty with travel or childcare.

Dr. Garven added that, since they started doing telemedicine, the no show rate for appointments has gone down substantially. He said, while some of this is due to people staying at home because of being laid off work, some of it is due to the convenience of telemedicine.

He noted that previously when people made in-person appointments, they had to make a trip to the office where often they end up waiting in the waiting room for the doctor to be available. This could involve up to three hours. Now with telemedicine, patients can often be connected with their doctor right away. Dr. Garven said, "It is a lot more convenient to have health care delivered to a space where patients already are. Particularly when we believe the health care delivered is at least equal."

There are also some drawbacks to telemedicine. Dr. Garven said the ideal is to have both audio and video connections. He says Neighborhood Family Practice will be examining ways to get all patients to have both an audio and video. Polster added that it is unclear how long regulations will allow audio only services, since video and audio combined is the goal for telemedicine.

Another problem is that some patients experience problems with wifi connectivity. Their internet feed is sometimes overwhelmed by the size of the video transmission. This in another issue that needs to be addressed.

In addition to internet connectivity sometimes being spotty, another drawback to in home service involves patients finding a quiet private space in their homes where they can talk with a doctor. Patients have discovered that they may not want to be in their living room while talking to the doctor. Some patients seeking quiet or privacy while talking

to the doctor have gone out to their car to talk, said Polster.

Polster said Neighborhood Family Practice was one of only six agencies in the nation to receive a Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Grant to provide resources for telemedicine. She said the grant has enabled Neighborhood Family to purchase hundreds of blue-tooth-enabled medical devices.

Dr. Garven explained that the devices can help to monitor patients' acute respiratory conditions in their homes, something of concern for those experiencing symptoms that are indicators of possible corona virus, COVID-19, infection.

The devices can also help with the monitoring of chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension that if left untreated would result in severe problems later. Dr. Garven says the blue tooth enabled devices can be dropped off in peoples' homes. The devices can be used by patients to relay directly to their doctor's computer information such as blood pressure, temperature and oxygen levels at the time they are talking with the doctor. When patients are finished using the device, it can be picked up, sanitized and cleaned up, and moved to another patient who needs it, he said.

Dr. Garven says that technology is outpacing medical care now. He said that there are applications where you can use a laptop to look inside a patient's ear and get a live feed of what the eardrum looks like, or have the ability to send sound from a stethoscope directly to a doctor so the doctor can listen to your breath or heartbeat from a remote location. Garven said the same type of medical technology available to Amazon owner Jeff Bezos and his pals, should be available to Neighborhood Family Practice patients.

CEO Polster says, Neighborhood Family Practice doesn't see a lot of patients wearing Fitbits. Being able to monitor patients in their homes has some real benefits. She said Neighborhood Family Practice is contacting people with chronic conditions at home with the goal of monitoring their condition and keeping them healthy and out of the hospital. She praised Case Western Reserve Medical students who are currently going to patients' homes to help set up the medical tool kits.

Dr. Garven noted there are situations where patients still need to come into the office. Initially Neighborhood Family Practice called all patients and told them if it is an elective visit, it was not a good idea to come in. Now systems are in place to screen patients via telemedicine to determine if they need to come into a clinic. Some we are required to see in person, he said. Noting you can't give a patient a shot of cortisone in a shoulder remotely, for example, and there are also some patients that have difficulty using telemedicine. For these patients, Neighborhood Family Practice has made every effort to improve the comfort level and safety of all patients and staff when people are coming to the office, he said.

CEO Polster said, "We do have face-to-face visits when it is urgent. If you need to come in for care, we



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020; St. Augustine Church, 2486 W. 14th Street: Sister Corita Ambro said St. Augustine Church expected to home deliver about 4,000 meals on Easter Sunday. Many meals are delivered each day to homes in Cleveland. Some people come to pick up a meal as well between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sr. Corita said people have been beautiful -- keeping their distance and putting a cover over their mouths as they stand in line. Sister Corita says those who would like to be on the list to have meals brought to their homes can call the church at 216-781-5530.

can do that... We have created an environment that is safe... If things are needed, we do have the ability to see you safely in six locations that are still open to see patients in person." She noted that the Tremont location on Professor Avenue has closed, and the staff has moved to other locations.

CEO Polster says Neighborhood Family Practice is excited to accept new patients. New patients can be walked through all the steps of signing up remotely. "We want to serve new patients, and we have the capacity," she said.

Polster said being a federally qualified health center provides Neighborhood Family Practice with a peer group that has local, regional, state and federal members that participate jointly in a number of weekly calls. "We share resources with each other," she said.

She said that Dr. Garven partici-

pated in a year-long training in electronic health records with OCHIN, a national organization to which also has a large membership that shares their experiences. Sharing information between peer organizations has been invaluable, said Polster.

Dr. Garven said OCHIN started on the West Coast, so many of the established members are community health centers from cities such as Spokane and Seattle that are doing similar outreach and are in regular communication. "The idea of the culture of innovation has been helpful," he said.

Polster said some of the organizations in OCHIN have a long experience with telemedicine. Neighborhood Family Practice has learned from their shared knowledge with telemedicine, she said. **Editor's Note:** For more information about Neighborhood Family Practice or to access their services call their main office at 216-281-0872 or visit their website at: www.nfpmcleveland.org.

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 English service.....10:30 am
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PLEASE KNOW OF OUR PRAYERS FOR THE HEALTH OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILIES.

Live Streamed Sunday Mass
 IS AVAILABLE ON OUR PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE.

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IF EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED.
 THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH YOU ALL.

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 Sunday Masses 9:30am & 12pm (High Latin Extraordinary Form) both LIVESTREAM @ saintroccocleveland.com

Church is open daily: Monday - Saturday 8am - 8pm / Sundays 2pm - 8pm
 Eucharistic Adoration every Tuesday, in Church: 9am - 8pm
 Mary's Cupboard (parish food pantry) open every 2nd & 4th Friday of the Month, 9am-11am (only residents of 44109)

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 For more information call: 216-961-8557. Tours are offered upon request.
Tours available upon request, call us and leave a message: 216-961-8557



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEOCH

The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH) launched a Mutual Aid Fund on March 23rd to provide support for grassroots, community-based responses to the COVID-19 crisis with grants of up to \$500. Here, a group organized by community activist Yvonka Hall prepares to deliver family bags of groceries and supplies to those in need.

MAY DUGAN CENTER

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client to find a private place and the conversation may not be completely confidential. For example, a mother having kids nearby in the house may compromise her ability to speak frankly. It may be easier to find a private space to do teletherapy once the weather is better and people can go outside, said Marasco, while acknowledging that may not work for everybody.

Even with the smart phones, there is a little bit of a struggle for some clients that don't have internet connectivity to find hotspots where they can communicate with counselors, said Marasco.

The phones also allow clients to go online and make calls to search for resources during this pandemic, she said.

With the advent of the restrictions, job losses, and stay at home orders brought on by the corona virus COVID-19, Marasco said people were "experiencing all the resources they depend on being jerked out from them." Meal programs, libraries, social services, and other programs they have depended upon have shut down.

In response to this breakdown of the neighborhood support system, Marasco said, "We have pivoted very quickly to making sure everyone has food." Rooms that were once filled with people participating in programs are now filled with pallets of food, she said.

Marasco said anxiety is high during this period of dramatic change. For people with anxiety disorders, or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, such anxiety can be a real trigger. May Dugan therapists offer them reassurances. "We are here. We are not going anywhere. We will figure this out together over time," she said.

Marasco says May Dugan Center offers counseling with a service philosophy that is based on trauma informed care. She said that it is important to recognize that it "takes a great deal of bravery to ask for help." Food insecurity and other traumatic experiences can lead to habits that are not the best for individuals. For example, some people may say things that are not true, or are exaggerated, when seeking help. Marasco said it is important not to focus on what is true, but on the person asking. "Why are you asking with such urgency?" Marasco said it is important to honor that "this is how they ask for help."

Asked about victims of domestic violence who may be sheltering at home with an abuser, Marasco said it is "heartbreaking." She said those individuals "rely on the ability to leave the house to coordinate getting help." Marasco said the strategy is to get the person to the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center shelter and to support that program and its services as much as possible.

To measure if trauma therapy is helping a person to improve their

NEOCH launches Mutual Aid Fund to support rapid responses to COVID-19 crisis

The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH) launched a Mutual Aid Fund to provide support for grassroots, community-based responses to the COVID-19 crisis. NEOCH was inspired by Cleveland Pandemic Response (CPR), a group of local organizers and volunteers who launched a community hub, to directly match people in need with neighbors offering support. Knowing that large systems can be slow to respond, CPR uses a mutual aid model to link community members to free goods and services, and to volunteers who can run errands for people at high risk of infection.

NEOCH began receiving offers of financial support soon after the

pandemic struck from community members who trusted them to direct those funds where they would have the biggest impact. "When disaster strikes, data shows that the most marginalized people in our society get left behind by large-scale solutions, particularly poor people of color," says Maggie Rice, who has been coordinating NEOCH's mutual aid education and outreach. "In response, NEOCH allocated some of the funds we've raised to provide rapid response assistance to those disproportionately impacted."

NEOCH launched its Mutual Aid Fund on March 23rd, soon after Gov. DeWine issued the state's stay-at-home order. Organizers

answer a few questions, NEOCH responds within 48 hours, and up to \$500 in funding is dispersed to people organizing projects. To date, NEOCH has supported 12 projects totaling \$4,300 in support. Funds have been used to provide food, hygiene, and cleaning products to at-risk neighborhoods, materials to make masks for essential workers, and transportation fare for people being released from prison.

Suncere Ali Shakur is no stranger to mutual aid work before the COVID-19 pandemic began. A seasoned activist, Shakur did mutual aid disaster response after Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy. He has also been continuing that effort in his CMHA housing community.

"I had already been feeding people in my community," says Shakur. "I got continued support from Food Not Bombs and others, and just had to add on my Katrina experience to build a supply line to an underserved community." Shakur, who calls himself a "hope dealer," used his micro-grant funds to provide toilet paper, hygiene supplies, cleaning products, and food to his neighbors.

Gabi Mirelez is a local business owner who has used her funds to make masks for NEOCH, Planned Parenthood, and other essential service providers. Through Sweettime Alterations Queer Tailor in Tremont, Mirelez has been providing individualized services to the community for several years. She sees mutual aid as a way to meet unique needs, without forcing people to conform to institutional standards that may not be a good fit for them. She says that one-on-one approach is what makes mutual aid so successful.

"I'm really grateful to grassroots organizations like NEOCH and CPR that do the work to link people like me up with individuals who can put my masks to immediate use," Mirelez says. "With the stress of everything that's going on, I don't have the capacity to go find the resources I need to move quickly. It was awesome that NEOCH reached out to me and invited me to apply, instead of the other way around."

For more information about NEOCH or to learn more about how to join or form a mutual aid group or make a donation visit NEOCH's website at: www.neoch.org.

Marasco urged residents to get on the phone or internet to check on others and find resources. She said people should try to stay active.

If people are in need of something, they can call May Dugan at 216-631-5800. There are special extensions for COVID-19 and Food Distribution, or you can leave a message at the front desk, said Marasco. Information about May Dugan Center is also available on their website at: www.maydugan-center.net.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEOCH

The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH) launched a Mutual Aid Fund on March 23rd to provide support for grassroots, community-based responses to the COVID-19 crisis with grants of up to \$500. Here, a volunteer with a group organized by community activist Suncere Ali Shakur is ready to go out to deliver toilet paper, hygiene supplies, cleaning products and food to neighbors.

well-being, Marasco says May Dugan has use of some "really good tools." She said questionnaires for clients help to determine if they are eating, sleeping well, if they are experiencing headaches, shortness of breath, or are waking up in the night. Also, with the video, the therapist that sees something can ask a direct question.

A network of therapists that work under the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services offers resources for May Dugan therapists and a chance to dialogue with others in the profession. Marasco credits other organizations with having amazing clinicians available for support and referrals such as the State Hospitals, the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI).



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Jandra Nguyen



City of Cleveland needs to address concerns of West Side Market tenants

by Chuck Hoven

The corona virus COVID-19 pandemic has a way of highlighting injustices and disparities in our society. One area of injustice is something the City of Cleveland has responsibility for, the treatment of its tenants – the merchants at the West Side Market

Before the pandemic hit, the West Side Market was already losing many of its merchants. Now with the advent of the pandemic, many more stands have reduced hours or have temporarily closed due to slow business or safety concerns. One West Side Market merchant recently commented "it's so slow, it's scary."

NEWS ANALYSIS

It is time for the City of Cleveland to address the concerns of West Side Market merchants and create a path going forward that treats these tenants of the City of Cleveland fairly.

In recent years, merchants leaving the West Side Market have cited City of Cleveland actions that have reduced their customer base or made the operation of the business more difficult because of the city's failure to do proper maintenance and upgrading of the facility.

Vince Bertonaschi, former president of the West Side Market Tenants' Association, who after thirty years as a market merchant closed his stand, Vince's Meats, in 2017, cited increased rents and costs with fewer customers as contributing to his decision to close the stand.

Bertonaschi contacted the *Plain Press* recently to give the paper some papers he saved over the years on the struggles of the West Side Market. Bertonaschi passed away on the last weekend in April. To the end, he was concerned about the fate of the West Side Market where he had devoted so many years of his life. In the weeks before he died, Bertonaschi was working to let more people know about the injustices born by the market tenants by speaking through the pages of the *Plain Press*.

"To understand what happened to the West Side Market you have to understand a market. A market is like a circus, everything is under the big top. You need all the acts to draw people. Same with a market, everybody has to be there to draw people," said Bertonaschi to the *Plain Press* in early April.

Bertonaschi represented the West Side Market Tenants Association for years in negotiations with the city of Cleveland on maintenance,

improvements, operations, rent and parking. He also served on the Steering Committee to help prepare for the West Side Market Centennial in 2012. He tried to keep the West Side Market Parking lot for the exclusive use of market customers and cited then Councilman Joe Cimperman, the staff of Ohio City Inc., and Mayor Frank Jackson's Administration at the City of Cleveland for allowing large venues to open in the neighborhood without being required to secure their own parking. Instead, says Bertonaschi, they were allowed to use the West Side Market Parking lot.

Bertonaschi pointed out that historically the West Side Market House Tenants Association purchased properties on W. 24th Street and had them demolished to make way for parking for the West Side Market. In 1963, the West Side Market House Tenants Association in an agreement with the city of Cleveland sold those properties to the City of Cleveland for the purpose of development of the West Side Market Off Street Parking Project. Back then, Bertonaschi said, "There was a gentlemen's agreement that the big lot would always belong to the market as long as the market took care of it."

Bertonaschi saw the allowing of parking by other large businesses in the neighborhood as violating that historic agreement with the City of Cleveland and depriving West Side Market customers of parking spaces on busy days. This he said led to an erosion of the customer base that was compounded by the City's decision to rebuild the parking lot and install parking gates. Bertonaschi said, "It took the city nine months to do the parking lot, a lot of customers never came back," said Bertonaschi.

In addition to having their parking lot being used by all the businesses in the neighborhood, Bertonaschi says the City of Cleveland was still charging the West Side Market Tenants Association for the maintenance and security for the lot. He says the amount being charged by the city was more than when the merchants were maintaining the lot themselves. In the last year the West Side Market Tenants Association was in charge of the parking lot, Bertonaschi said it cost the merchants \$76,000 to have the lot surfaced and striped, plowed and to provide security and landscaping. The next year, when the City of Cleveland took over the lot the cost to the merchants increased to \$86,000.

Bertonaschi described the impact of the increased use of the lot by area bars "The bar workers parked there all day. The customers would drink too much and leave their cars in the market lot all night. The problem would be in the winter when the lot needed to be plowed. The plow guy could not plow the lot right."

Bertonaschi initially welcomed the interest of Ohio City Inc. and the City of Cleveland in promoting and upgrading the West Side Market to prepare for its centennial celebration. However, he soon felt that they were more interested in drawing tourists for the Market District bars and restaurants than in making improvements the merchants needed at the West Side Market. Speaking of the leadership of Ohio City Incorporated and the City of Cleveland, he said, "These people all wanted the market to draw people for the bars in Ohio City, but people going to the bars don't shop for food. The bars also on game days would shuttle patrons to the game. The patrons would be parked in the market lot. That meant that for sports events, the market did little business."

The lack of service by the City of Cleveland and equipment that doesn't work properly have been cited by merchants for years as making their lives difficult. Some merchants have had to bring in ice to properly store their merchandise when cooler temperatures dipped to unacceptable levels. The City of Cleveland installed new display cases for the indoor merchants, but in the process covered up the radiators so they could not be used for heat in the winter. This resulted in merchants to wear coats while working in the cold months. These problems and more unresolved maintenance issues frustrated market merchants.

Bertonaschi saved correspondence between West Side Market merchants, Ohio City Inc and the City of Cleveland which indicates merchant opposition to the addition of Sunday hours. One major concern of merchants was their ability to maintain the freshness and quality of their merchandise. Vince Bertonaschi explained that merchants, like him, that sold meat were butchers. They received their product on Mondays, cut it up themselves, with the goal of selling it all by the end of the day on Saturday. They sold fresh meat, no preservatives. What their customers wanted and expected. Sundays were also problematic for those selling bakery – with suppliers not available on that day to provide fresh baked goods. Market merchants, who prepare their own specialty foods themselves, also need extra days to put together prepared food dishes.

From a pure cost measure, merchants expressed concern that the extra day would cost the city more to operate the market. Since the West Side Market is expected to pay for itself, those costs would be passed on to the market tenants in the form of a rent increase. Sure enough, rents increased. A combination of rent increases and lost customers due to the loss of customers from the parking

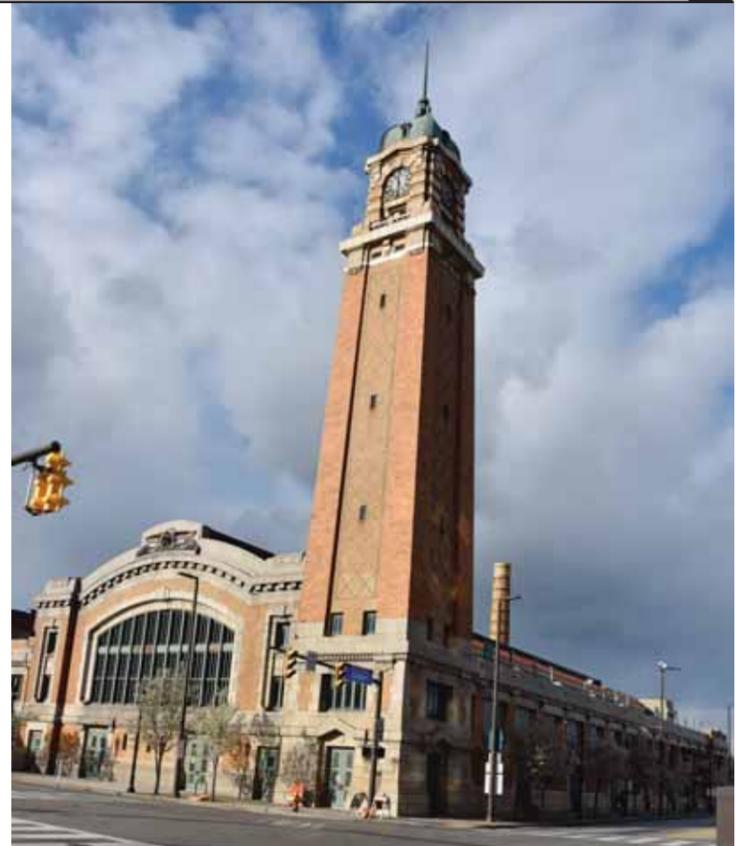


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, April 21, 2020; West Side Market, W. 25th and Lorain Avenue: West Side Market remains open during its regular hours on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Merchants are also offering curbside pickup on Lorain Avenue or at the loading dock by the rear parking lot. To order groceries and arrange a pickup contact each individual merchant at the phone number listed on the West Side Market website at: westsidemarket.org. If you are not able to reach a particular merchant, their stand may be closed.

lot fiasco, let to more merchants being unable to afford to stay at the West Side Market. In September 2016, ninety-one merchants signed a petition Vince Bertonaschi circulated and delivered to Market Manager Felicia Hall. The petition asked the City of Cleveland for "a reduction in rent commensurate with the decrease in business resulting from the sudden and unannounced closure of the customer parking facility."

In January of 2017, the City of Cleveland again substantially raised rents. As more merchants left the market, the City still expected to have rents from the market merchants pay for the operation of the West Side Market. This meant remaining tenants faced ever increasing rents as the City of Cleveland tried to make up for the loss of rent from those merchants that left. This has led to more tenants leaving because of the increasing rent. Obviously, a course of action that is not sustainable.

The City of Cleveland and Cleveland City Council representatives should look at this period of time when business is at a historic low at the West Side Market as a time when long deferred maintenance needs to be done and the quality of functioning of the equipment brought up to standards that merchants have been requesting for years. The City of Cleveland should consult with merchants as to how to make their working conditions optimal.

In response to the current corona virus COVID-19 pandemic, the city of Cleveland saw fit to suspend rent payments by West Side Market tenants for the months of April, May and June. While this is commendable, it is not enough to suspend rent payments. The rents

should be forgiven. Having to make up three months of rent, with income down, or non-existent for many stands, is a recipe for disaster.

Instead of looking at the West Side Market as an entity that needs to break even, the City of Cleveland should be looking at it as a City treasure and an anchor for the Market District. Many of the businesses, and current and planned residential developments have located in the Market District to be near the West Side Market. If the West Side Market is diminished, those businesses and residential developments will lose value as well.

The City of Cleveland should provide reasonable rent and if that means a subsidy for the market, that should be allowed. The income taxes from all the residents and businesses that want to live or locate near the West Side Market should more than make up for any shortfall.

Vince Bertonaschi was convinced that the West Side Market needs to be a working food market, not a boutique market for tourists.

Merchants who own the stands at the West Side Market should be involved in the policy changes and their concerns should be addressed as part of any plan for the West Side Market. Bertonaschi said the planners from Ohio City Inc. and the City of Cleveland that wanted to promote the market to tourists to increase business for the bars should not be involved in planning the future of the West Side Market. "You cannot solve your problems with the same thinking that caused them," said Vince Bertonaschi.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

April 20, 2020; 1711 W. 32nd Street: Signs in the window of this house support frontline workers and kindness toward all.



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PHOTO BY FRED HODGES

Early April 2020; W. 44th and Lorain Avenue: Furniture store building is being demolished to make way for a new development called Harbor 44. It is being developed by Realife Management Group.

LOCAL ECONOMY

continued from page one

a year to more than 70,000 customers. The menu also includes hamburgers, tots and fries, and, of course, plenty of beer.

"We suspended operations when the Governor's order went into effect. We have a limited menu. We weren't doing much takeout before this and we worried that we would be losing money even faster if we tried doing takeout," he said. "We also worried about the safety of our employees."

With their operations payroll down to zero, including no compensation to the co-owners, Watterson conserved as much cash as possible. He suspended the Happy Dog liquor liability license, cable television, waste pickup, and linen cleaning services. Outstanding bills

were categorized by priority. He applied for a Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance Loan.

"The past couple of weeks have been hyper focused on programs we qualify for," he added. "There's a scarcity mentality with experts telling us that most of the assistance programs are on a first-come-first-serve basis."

Watterson doesn't have a crystal ball when it comes to talking about the future of the Happy Dog. There's no moment when everything opens and goes back to the way they were before the crisis. While the Governor will decide when bars and restaurants can reopen, will customers feel comfortable going back? He's not so sure.

"Dive bars do great in a recession. They're affordable places to get together. We did well after the 2008 recession," he said. "But we're not focused on that right now."

In the rush to get a financial assistance package operational by the Federal government, all small businesses were lumped together in the same program, according to Watterson. Bringing payroll back to 75% makes more sense for some businesses that can continue to operate during the crisis. Hotels and businesses in the hospitably sector of the economy require the government to understand that small businesses run on very thin margins and without much cash flow. Even a low interest loan might not help.

"Our margins are typically so thin that the amount of extra revenue you need to pay back the loans are enough to knock you out. If you come through this crisis with debt for the rest of your life people are going to wonder if it's really worth it," Watterson added.

Cultural institutions across the city like the Cleveland Museum of Art and Museum of Contemporary Art are closed, as are theaters and performance venues including Cleveland Public Theater, Near West Theatre, Capitol Theater, convergence-continuum, LGBT Community Center, and other west side community centers. Michael Gill, Executive Director, Publisher and Editor of CAN Journal (Collective Arts Network), a nonprofit organization of more than 95 art galleries, schools, and related institutions, plus individual

artists, sees the evolution of isolation and social distancing easing in the coming months. Gill believes most organizations will survive.

CAN Journal regularly reports on cultural events around Ohio City, Tremont, Gordon Square, and other near west side neighborhoods as well as events throughout the city and Northeast Ohio.

"Mission driven community and cultural centers like Art House provide arts activities for students in schools and also serve families in their neighborhood. Several similar community organizations including Metro West, as part of their Creative Fusion Program, and Julia de Burgos Cultural Center have events planned for August," Gill said. "Providing service to the community is their primary mission. They may have more liberty to steer their programs within budget constraints."

Local artists, on the other hand, can apply for funding to help with the economic fallout through resources such as the Emergency Relief Grant offered by SPACES gallery. The Warhol Foundation has authorized its sixteen re-granting partners, including SPACES, to re-allocate \$100,000 grants to create and administer COVID-19 emergency relief funds.

Additionally, a coalition of seven arts organizations that includes Artadia, Creative Capital, the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, the MAP Fund, the National YoungArts Foundation, Academy of American Poets and United States Artists have launched Artist Relief, a new initiative that has been funded to provide \$5,000 relief grants to artists facing financial emergencies due to the fallout from COVID-19. (<https://www.artistrelief.org>).

The Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund is designed to complement the work of public health officials and expand local capacity to address all aspects of the outbreak as efficiently as possible. The Rapid Response Fund will provide grant awards on a rolling basis to nonprofit organizations in Cuyahoga, Lake and Geauga counties, according to the Cleveland Foundation. (clevelandfoundation.org)

"I couldn't guess on the length of recovery to the economy," Gill said. "So many artists supplement their income with service industries jobs. That has to come back first."

Independence-based Dalad Group, a multifaceted real estate developer with office and industrial properties in downtown Cleveland and the southern suburbs, was in the middle of developing Tinnerman Lofts when the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

struck. Tinnerman Lofts will have 49 market-rate apartments and several workplace commercial spaces.

The Tinnerman Stove and Range Company building at 2038 Fulton Road was first constructed in 1914 for the Tinnerman Steel Range Co., which remained on the site until 1957, when it moved to Brook Park. Tinnerman is best known for inventing a speed nut, a type of locknut with two sheet metal prongs that act as one thread. The speed nut was eventually used in the manufacture of automobiles and stoves, and during World War II the United States government also began using Tinnerman's speed nuts in its aircraft.

The Dalad Group was awarded \$1.7 million in Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits for the Tinnerman Lofts project.

Construction and housing are considered essential services. In terms of a construction schedule, COVID-19 might slow down the work but not drastically. Whether anyone will lease the lofts is another question.

"I suspect there will be some people ready to lease," said Neil Viny, president of the Dalad Group. "But we don't how this will change leasing structure."

In 2018, The Dalad Group successfully converted the Worthington Building on Johnson Court to loft apartments in a \$30 million project in the Warehouse District.

"We have a few other projects in pre-development, and we continue to do architecture work and planning on those projects," he said, adding, "this is entirely new territory. No one knows precisely how the economy will come back."

Several blocks west at the corner of Lorain Ave and West 44th Street, the former Ohio City Furniture Store building has been demolished to make way for construction of Harbor 44, a multi-story commercial and office building. Harbor 44 was being billed as a 29,000 SF proposed Class-A, mixed-use retail and office development in Cleveland's burgeoning Ohio City neighborhood. The new development had plans to offer a rooftop deck with exquisite downtown skyline views, underground parking and excellent connectivity to walk, bike or drive to work or entertainment destinations, according to Cushman & Wakefield CRESCO Real Estate. But that changed. The current plan is to reduce the building from three to two stories and eliminate underground parking, according to Shawn Darling, sales agent for Cushman & Wakefield CRESCO Real Estate.

Cushman & Wakefield CRESCO Real Estate major shareholders include Honk Kong-based private equity house

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Ensuring the rights of Cleveland Public Power customers during the pandemic and beyond

by Delaney Jones

This article is the fifth 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. The fourth article discussed CPP's recent commitment to reconnecting power for those shut off due to COVID-19 concerns. This article focuses on efforts to ensure that all Clevelanders have power during this pandemic and the fight for long term accountability and transparency.

In our last article, we spoke about Mayor Jackson's announcement that city utility departments would cease turning off power to residents and reconnect customers already shut off upon request. However, many people remain unaware of their right to reconnection due to a lack of effective communication on behalf of CPP to their customers. The same goes for customers of Cleveland Water.

CPP's refusal to reconnect households until people call is insufficient. Hundreds or thousands of Cleveland households may still be without necessary and life-saving utilities. CPP and Cleveland Water, valuable public entities with democratic missions to serve the public, must do more to ensure people they serve have electricity and water.

The Cleveland End Poverty Now Coalition and partners have recently joined together to urge public officials to ensure the human rights of Clevelanders. Mayor Jackson and Public Utilities Director Davis must commit

to publishing a plan that details how CPP and Cleveland Water will ensure, through improved outreach to customers and judicious use of automatic reconnections, that every household in Cleveland has electricity and water.

Keeping CPP and Cleveland Water accountable does not end when the pandemic ends. We also urge these public officials to commit to extending the suspension of shutoffs for a 60-day grace period after Ohio's State of Emergency is over, and enroll each household struggling to pay bills in payment plans. Once the outbreak begins to subside, families will experience difficulty getting back on their feet. Accessible payment plans are necessary to give customers a chance to pay back past due balance.

We published these demands and attempted to gain the attention of city leaders through an online petition. The petition can be accessed via this link: <https://www.cuyccpc.org/utilitypetition/>. Multiple local citizen groups contributed to these efforts, including the End Poverty Now Coalition, the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus, Peace Action Network, Sunrise Movement, Ohio Citizen Action, and more. A letter was sent to Public Utilities Director Davis and Mayor Jackson regarding these demands.

The city's response mentions the reconnection policy and states that the city is responding adequately. However, the response does not address any of the demands and does not give any acknowledgement towards extending the shut-off beyond the end of the emergency period.

We remain concerned that Clevelanders are still without power and water. We continue to call on city departments to ensure every household has utilities during and after this pandemic.

Editor's Note: The author of the above article, Delaney Jones, is an organizer for Organize Ohio working with the Cleveland End Poverty Now Coalition.

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Sunday, April 5, 2020; St. Augustine Hunger Center, 2486 W. 14th Street: Guardian Angel Luis Gonzalez prepares to home deliver food to Cleveland residents.

COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

2020. For more information contact Reie Dix of the Alumni Committee at 216-357-2674.

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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.

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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. CuyahogaCountyDivisionofChildrenandFamilyServices/ and then click on "Contact Us" to file a report through the County's website.

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LOCAL ECONOMY

continued from page 6

PAG and San Francisco-based TPG Funds, private equity firms affiliated with leverage buyouts and venture capital.

"We did get a lease signed with Sherwin Williams for 4300 square feet on the ground floor. There's another 5000 square feet for retail and 10,000 square feet for offices," she said. "The building was scaled back from three to two floors to meet the requirements of the Sherwin Williams deal."

Darling wants to find businesses that add value to the community as an amenity to improve the area like a microbrewery, juice bar, or cafe. Rents start at \$22-\$24 SF per year.

When asked whether changes to the building design were approved by the local block club, Thomas McNair, Executive Director, Ohio City Incorporated, replied by email, "I am aware that the project is evolving and has been scaled back from 3 stories to 2, but it is essentially the same project with a mixed use building fronting Lorain Avenue, parking in the rear, and housing along West 44th Street. Those changes will be reviewed at a to-be-determined time in a new virtual format that the City is working on. Changes have not been given to the block club as there is no changes yet that have been approved, and we are working through how to best shift community engagement in the midst of a global pandemic."

James Asimes, Director of Acquisitions at Realife Management Group, the developers of Harbor 44, confirmed that the project is privately financed. Realife is led by Yaron Kandelker, an Israeli native now living in Cleveland with a rapidly accumulating commercial properties portfolio in Northeast Ohio, according to Crain's Cleveland Business.

Harbor 44 is scheduled to open early in 2021.

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6. Explore your school choices for next school year by visiting **ChooseCMSD.org** – enroll early for the school of your choice.
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10. Remember to complete your 2020 Census form – a full count increases federal funding for the District, city and region. Visit **2020census.gov** to learn more.

