



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Saturday, September 5, 2020; St. Rocco Church, 3205 Fulton Road: *Plain Press* Editor Debbie Sadlon sits with her dog Mattie. The editorial comment on her t-shirt says: "The Virus: Mask It or Casket."

Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Cleveland Community Police Commission works to reform Cleveland Division of Police

by Chuck Hoven

Of late, much public discussion centers around the need for police reform. Here in Cleveland that effort is already underway. The Cleveland Community Police Commission has been working on reforming the Cleveland Police Department since 2015.

At its quarterly meeting held virtually on September 24th, the Cleveland Community Police Commission worked through a very full agenda filled with ideas from the community on how to reform the Cleveland Police Department.

The Community Police Commission (CPC), established in 2015 as part of the Consent Decree between the City of Cleveland and the United States Department of Justice, works to provide community input on needed police reforms so Cleveland Division of Police practices and procedures will comply with Constitutional Law.

Community Police Commission Executive Director Jason Goodrick worked out the technical details to allow the public and members of the commission to participate in the virtual meeting either online or via the

telephone. Co-chairs Pastor Fredrick Knuckles and Richard Jackson introduced each item of the agenda and the speakers.

Superintendent of the Internal Affairs Unit of the Cleveland Division of Police Ronald Bakeman made a presentation to the CPC on the progress his unit has made in reducing the average time it takes to complete an investigation of a complaint of police misconduct. Bakeman said in 2017, the year before he took over the unit, it took an average of 313 days to complete an investigation. In 2018 the average time to complete a case was reduced to 260 days; in 2019 the average time was reduced to 161 days and thus far in 2020 the average time to complete an investigation was 68 days.

Bakeman says his office investigates allegations of criminal misconduct by police. He said it is his fervent hope that people in the community will gain trust in the internal affairs unit to investigate all complaints. He cited a case of a woman who was a heroin addict and a prostitute who brought up a case of a Cleveland Police Sergeant who was paying to have sex with her

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Thursday, September 10, 2020; Census Thursday: Get Out the Count, Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library, 8216 Lorain Avenue: Kathie Sizemore of the Cuyahoga County Complete Count Committee is ready to help residents who haven't yet filled out their census form.

Tie vote at City of Cleveland Board of Zoning Appeals hearing delays decision on proposed development project at W. 14th and Kenilworth

by Bruce Checefsky

At 11:53AM on Monday, September 13, the City of Cleveland Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) called forward Appeal: Calendar No. 20 - 135 (1415 Kenilworth Ave) for review. This particular appeal had been left for last during the nearly three-hour meeting because of the volume of materials both in support and against the project. Carol A. Johnson, Chairperson of

BZA, cited more than thirteen letters of protest against the project and asked for brevity from the committee and representatives of the community. More than a dozen participants lined up to speak including project representatives David Maison and Brent Zimmerman, Cleveland City Planner Matt Moss, Tremont West Development Corporation Executive Director Cory Riordan, Tremont

residents Karla Maschmeier and Susan Scialabba among others.

BZA committee member Tim Donovan told Chairperson Johnson that he had to leave at 12 Noon, less than ten minutes after the case was first introduced. She agreed to keep the meeting brief. A swearing-in administered by City of Cleveland legal counsel took place during the

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, September 5, 2020; Edgewater Park: Lisa Wells (daughter) and Sharon Brown (mother) enjoy some time together near the Lake Erie shore. The both love the willow trees at the park.

Parents work to reunite with their children in foster care while pandemic delays visits, court

by Brie Zeltner and Rachel Dissell

Lionel scooped up his daughter, Imari, and planted a kiss on the 1-year-old's chubby cheek, then carried her to the car that would take the baby and her brothers away from him and back to their foster home.

Trailing behind Lionel, 29, was his partner, Carlitta, who held the hands of their chattering sons, 4-year-old Regis and 2-year-old Kenneth, as they walked across the parking lot of University Settlement's Mead House in Slavic Village, where their weekly two-hour visits are held.

The 22-year-old mother helped tuck the boys into their car seats and waved goodbye, then turned to straighten her black shirt — "social distancing saves lives," it read — and dab a tear from her eye.

The end of the family's visit is always hard.

But it's not as hard as the month-long stretch when, because of the coronavirus, Lionel and Carlitta, whom *ideastream* agreed to identify

only by their first names, couldn't see their children in person.

For the more than 3,000 Cuyahoga County children in foster care and their foster parents and families, the pandemic has made visitation, the reunification process and maintaining familial bonds far more complicated. Families and county workers must balance the need to maintain the ties between parent and child while protecting everyone in the system from getting sick. As of late August, 15 children in foster care had tested positive for the coronavirus; all have recovered. It's unknown how many foster and biological family members have tested positive.

With the county's Juvenile Court mostly closed for the spring, parents eager to complete the required steps to reunite with their children have seen court dates pushed back. Some who were on the cusp of re-

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, September 2, 2020; Lunch distribution, Louisa May Alcott School, 10308 Baltic Avenue: Ready to pass out lunches are staff members (L-R): Caletia Hitchinson, Frank Gangale, and Officer Deneen Smith.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, September 5, 2020; West Side Market: A Veteran vender sells the Cleveland Street Chronicle, a newspaper which provides a voice for Cleveland's homeless community.



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

POOR PEOPLE'S MORAL JUSTICE JUBILEE POLICY PLATFORM: The legislative and Policy Priorities of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival: View the platform at: bit.ly/ppcjubilee

ARTS

CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART is open. While the museum is free, there will be timed admission tickets. Reserve free tickets online at: <https://www.clevelandart.org/visit-plan#tickets>. Or call the ticket center at 216-421-7350 M-F, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

BENEFITS

STIMULUS CHECKS: If you have no income or your income is less than \$12,200 and you did not file a tax return, you may be missing out on claiming your stimulus check! Cuyahoga County which is one of the poorest and most populous counties, has tens of thousands of residents who are eligible for the \$1,200 stimulus checks and have not yet received them. Here are tools that can be used to ensure that those who are "non-filers" and eligible to receive the stimulus payments get them: For those with internet access you can apply today using the "nonfilers: enter payment info here" tool at www.cuyahogacounty.us/educational-opportunities. com. For those who do not have easy access to the internet, or if more information and assistance is needed, dial 211 for assistance. The deadline to apply is October 15th. **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.

BUSINESS & LABOR

LEGAL AID WORKER INFORMATION LINE: Call 216-861-5899 to get answers to your employment questions.

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.

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.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTING CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE: The Cleveland Rape Crisis Center offers free online training for those interested in learning how to prevent childhood sexual abuse: *Talking with Children about Safety from Sexual Abuse*, October 7th at Noon; and *Bystanders Protecting Children from Boundary Violations and Sexual Abuse*, October 14th at Noon. For details on the free training sessions and how you can register visit: www.clevelandrapeccrisis.org/educational-opportunities.

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-Abuse-Neglect.aspx>. Click on "Contact Us" to file a report through the County's website.

CITY SERVICES

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. Minor offenses include property damage, petty theft, lost property, theft from vehicle, theft of credit card, stolen vehicle (when suspect is not on scene and no one was injured or threatened), telephone harassment. In any cases where

Boys & Girls Clubs opening sites on Cleveland's West Side

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio (BGCNEO) is opening two new ClubSmart Learning Centers – places where kids doing digital schoolwork can get in-person help -- on Cleveland's West Side.

A ClubSmart Learning Center will open Monday, Sept. 28 at The City Life Center, 3340 Trowbridge Ave., a building which for years housed Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland's West Side Club. A second ClubSmart location is scheduled to open Oct. 12 at Riverview Welcome Center, 1701 W. 25th Street.

Hours for the Trowbridge center will be 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays. The hours for the Riverview Welcome Center are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Centers are open to kids ages 6-18, and there is no charge.

Each location can serve up to 30 kids and will have four BGCNEO staff members on hand.

The Trowbridge site is a partnership between BGCNEO and City Life, a relational, holistic, community-based ministry. The Riverview Welcome Center ClubSmart location is a collaboration between BGCNEO, building owner Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority and LAND Studio.

BGCNEO has been searching for West Side locations since two schools in which it has Clubs – Joseph Gallagher and Luis Munoz Marin – closed in March. Gallagher Club Director Natasha Arroyo will now oversee the ClubSmart site on Trowbridge, while Luis Munoz Marin Club Director Alex

Rivera will head the program at Riverview Welcome Center.

For registration information, contact Sandra Del Valle at sdelvalle@bgcneo.org.

"We are extremely pleased to be able to open these ClubSmart sites and serve the West Side families that have been such great supporters of our Clubs," said BGCNEO President and CEO Jeff Scott.

Boys & Girls Clubs provide safe, fun places for kids ages 6-18 after school with an emphasis on academic success, healthy lifestyles and character development. This fall, BGCNEO opened ClubSmart Learning Centers in response to the needs of kids and families hurt by the digital divide.

a crime of violence was committed or there is a current threat, please call 9-1-1. File online: <https://secure.coplogie.com/dors/startreport/176231500>. Report via phone daily from 7:30 a.m. – 10 p.m. 216-621-1234 Members of the public are reminded to adhere to CDC guidelines on social distancing if they choose to visit a police district building in person.

COMMUNITY

NEIGHBOR UP COVID 19 RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS are available to grassroots neighborhood groups, small nonprofits and faith-based groups. Grants cover a 12-week period and will be from \$500 to \$5,000. For more information contact Monique Williams Kelly, mwilliams@neighborhoodgrants.org.

CLEVELAND POLICE FOUNDATION offers programs designed to build bridges between the Cleveland Division of Police and members of the community. For more information about the Cleveland Police Foundation and its programs visit: www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org.

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.

CONSENT DECREE

CLEVELAND COMMUNITY POLICE COMMISSION has two working groups the Accountability Work Group and the Interactions with Youth Work Group. For more information about joining a work group send an email to info@clecpc.org or call 216-505-5920.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESOURCES

WAS YOUR FAMILY IMPACTED BY COVID-19? Do you need help feeding your family? Are you behind on your rent or utilities? Do you need cleaning or hygiene products? If you have a minor child or are pregnant and your income is below 200% of the federal poverty limit, help may be available to help with food, rent, utilities, and cleaning and hygiene products. (200% of the Federal Poverty Limit is \$2, 127 a month for a single person, \$2, 874 for two people, \$3,620 for three people, and \$4,367 for four people.) For more information about COVID-19 Emergency Assistance or to apply, leave a message on the PRC Information Line at 216-987-7392 or visit: <https://hhs.cuyahogacounty.us/programs/detail/prevention-retention-and-contingency-program-covid-19-emergency-assistance>

PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER FOR HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS at Case Western Reserve University will be including the Cudell, Clark Fulton and Old Brooklyn neighborhoods in a study to explore neighborhood vulnerability and social perceptions related to COVID-19. If you are interested in helping, or being a study participant, the team is looking for residents that could serve as good reporters for any of the above approaches. Ideal candidates should be immersed in their neighborhood, have a good sense of the goings on of businesses and residents, and have access to a phone, tablet or computer for simple data collection. Potential participants will be contacted by a member of our study team to provide them with information about the study and determine if it would be a good fit. There will be compensation for their time if selected. If you have someone in mind for any of the neighborhoods listed above or have any questions about the project, please contact Dr. Meredith Goodwin at the PRCHN at mag@case.edu.

CLEVELAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S online dashboard tracks coronavirus cases in the City of Cleveland. Visit clevelandhealth.org to check it out. As of September 26, the City of Cleveland reported 5, 425 confirmed cases and an additional 555 probable cases

for a total of 5, 980 total COVID-19 cases. To date there have been 151 COVID-19 attributed deaths in Cleveland. The zip codes with the highest number of cases in Cleveland are coded red – meaning they have between 384 and 574 confirmed cases. Those zip codes are: 44102, 44105, 44109, 44111 and 44113.

MASK COMPLIANCE: Cuyahoga County has an interactive map on its website at www.cuyahogacounty.us/maskcompliance. You can enter the address of a business and check for their mask compliance record and for any violations. You can add reviews of businesses with favorable or unfavorable reports of conduct of staff or customers. Complaints can also be submitted by phone at: 216-698-5050.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH updates its website regularly with helpful information and regular updates on COVID-19 in Ohio visit: www.coronavirus.ohio.gov. 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.

CONSUMER

LIFE INSURANCE BENEFICIARY ONLINE SEARCH SERVICE: Ohioans can access a free and easy to use online search service to determine if they may be due beneficiary proceeds from a missing life insurance policy or annuity contract. The Life Insurance Policy Locator at <https://eapps.naic.org/life-policy-locator/#/welcome> requires only basic information to get started. Individuals who believe they are beneficiaries, executors or legal representatives of a deceased person may submit a search request. Insurance companies receive the requests, search their records, and directly contact the individual only if a match is made, typically within 90 business days. For more information about the service visit www.insurance.ohio.gov or www.naic.org.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE offers advice on how to Complete a home inventory: Listing your possessions with photos and their values will prove worthwhile in a claim filing situation and help you determine if you have adequate insurance coverage. Download the free phone app myHOME Scr.APP.book or print a paper version at www.insurance.ohio.gov. For more, including how to navigate the claim filing process, use the Ohio Department of Insurance disaster preparation and recovery toolkit at www.insurance.ohio.gov. You can call the department's insurance experts at 1-800-686-1526 with your insurance questions or send them to consumer.complaint@insurance.ohio.gov.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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. **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/ childcare and more. For more information call 216-229-2420 or visit www.dvcac.org.

DONATIONS

DONATE BLOOD: Through October 15th the hours to donate blood at the American Red Cross Warzel Blood Donation Center at 3747 Euclid Avenue are: Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 7a.m. to 3 p.m. and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from Noon to 8 p.m. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the blood drive and are required to wear

a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance. To schedule an appointment, download the free Blood Donor App, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

EDUCATION

BELIEVE IN OHIO'S STATEWIDE STEM INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: Ohio high school students who are juniors or seniors during the 2020-2021 school year, and who meet the qualifications noted on the scholarship application, are invited to apply for a \$1,000 *Believe in Ohio* STEM Scholarship. For more information on how to apply for the scholarship visit: <https://mk0believeinohio121qn.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Believe-in-Oho-Statewide-Scholarship-Program-Aug-12-2020.pdf>

VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES TO FEATURE BLACK BOTANISTS: Holden Forests & Gardens (HF&G) and the University of New Mexico announce the 2021 *Scientist Lecture Series: Growing Black Roots the Black Botanical Legacy* a groundbreaking FREE virtual lecture series to inspire others to pursue a career in plants and highlight pathways to diversity and inclusion in botanical sciences. This free 11-part series will take place online with a new speaker on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. ET from October 2020 through August 2021. To register visit <https://holdenarb.org/visit/events-lectures/scientist-lecture/>. This series is open to all.

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

EDUCATION BLOGS: Former Plain Dealer Education Reporter Patrick O'Donnell is now writing for the 74million.org an education blog. Former United Church of Christ Minister for Public Education and Witness Ministries Jan Resseger blogs at janresseger.wordpress.com

COMPUTER BASICS: Join Detroit Shoreway's judgement-free computer lessons with Alicia, Digital Literacy Coordinator, **each Monday at 9am** on Facebook Live. Please help a loved one who is interested in computer basics to

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Website:
<https://plainpress.blog>
Plain Press © Established in 1971
Circulation: 21,000 copies.
Published monthly.

Distribution area: Cuyahoga River west to W. 140, Lake Erie south to the Lower Big Creek Valley. Available free at over 500 locations.
Managing Editor: Charles E. Hoven;
Editor: Deborah Rose Sadlon;
Copy Editor: Craig Bobby
Reporters: Bruce Cheefsky & Jack Barnes
Photo Editor: Coriana Close;
Photographer: Michael Oakar
Advertising Sales: Ed Tishel
Graphic Artist: David Myers
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Kolou Marketplace opens to serve the neighborhood

by **Chuck Hoven**

The Kolou Marketplace at 4700 Bridge Avenue is now open and serving the neighborhood.

Siba Beavogul, Kolou Beavogul and their son Laville and daughter Tenin hosted an opening ceremony for Kolou's Marketplace on August 27th, 2020. The store will serve as a neighborhood convenience store as well as an African import store offering a variety of specialty foods.

The store's opening is a dream come true for Siba and Kolou Beavogul. The dream began to take shape about seven years ago with the purchase of the building. The task then became how to undertake and finance the repairs and remodeling.

At the opening ceremony Siba and Kolou Beavogul greeted guests, offered tours of the store, and had plenty of tasty food for all the guests.

Father Bob Begin, Pastor Emeritus of St. Colman Church, became involved in helping the Beavogul's with the project after they purchased the building. Fr. Begin said at first when he saw the condition of the building, he thought "this is not going

to work." Begin said a business advisor once told him, "Get the business going first. Don't buy the building first."

Father Begin helped to connect the family to available development resources. At the beginning, Begin said the building had no roof and barely a door. Speaking of the Beavogul's devotion to the project, Begin praised their commitment and persistence.

Begin said Rebecca Perera of the Economic and Community Development Institute proved to be an angel for the project. Perera in turn recruited help from Business Advisors of Cleveland, an organization which uses volunteer business executives to help advise small businesses. John Nunnari became the lead point person from Business Advisors of Cleveland. Nunnari estimates he devoted 30 to 40 hours a month to helping with the project over the past five years.

Nunnari helped to create a large team to deal with the financing, architectural services, contractors and countless trades people. He assisted in the purchase of a modern

electric cash register, flooring, walls and awnings.

As for the financing of the repairs, Fr. Bob Begin said, "First Federal of Lakewood came to our aid." Tom Fraser of First Federal of Lakewood noted the bank has an office at Gordon Square in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood. He explained that the bank is a mutual bank and all the deposits get reinvested in the community. Fraser shared his story with those present at the ceremony, saying he had roots in the neighborhood. He said he grew up in the neighborhood and his sister still lives in the family house on 54th and Bridge.

The Beavogul family, originally from Guinea in West Africa, is now deeply involved in the Near West Side of Cleveland. Siba and Kolou are not only residents and business owners in the neighborhood, they also have grandchildren attending neighborhood schools.

The new store lies on the boundary between Ward 3 and Ward 15. At the ceremony, Ward 3 Councilman Kerry McCormack thanked everyone involved in helping to make it



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, August 27, 2020; Opening Ceremony Kolou's Marketplace, 4700 Bridge Avenue: (L-R) Pastor Emeritus of St. Colman Church Father Bob Begin, Siba Beavogul, and Kolou Beavogul. Father Begin offers a blessing for the new market opened by the Beavogul family.

possible for the store to open. Ward 15 Councilman Matt Zone acknowledged a number of people who helped with the project and singled

out special praise for the efforts of Father Bob Begin saying "if not for his stewardship, this project might not be."

After 19 years on Cleveland City Council, Ward 15 Councilman Matt Zone announces plans to resign from Cleveland City Council to take helm at Thriving Communities Institute

To the Editor:

After 19 years on council, I will transition off by mid-November. This was a difficult decision to make; I love serving this community and particularly, the passionate members who call her home, but I'm excited about the next chapter.

It is with pride and honor that I will be succeeding Jim Rokakis as the Executive Director of the Thriving Communities Institute (TCI) and will also serve as Senior Vice President of Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

LETTER

It has been my privilege and honor to serve you as a member of council. It's the job of a lifetime and I'm thankful every day I was able to do it. I have always approached the work with full dedication and truly believe that my time on council will be the toughest, most rewarding job I will ever have. During my tenure, I've advocated for a more thoughtful, creative and responsible approach for city government. To accomplish this locally, I have always engaged our city's residents with an inspiring plan and made informed decisions that are based on evidence, community consultation and the merits of arguments - rather than a particular ideology.

Together, we have tackled many important issues and initiatives to make our community stronger and more inclusive. We've created a culture where acceptance and appreciation of everyone is the norm in Ward 15, and each individual is comfortable bringing their full selves to every initiative or problem we have tackled.

Our community has led the efforts on creating a better city. Ward 15 is one of the neighborhoods in the city to witness population growth over the past decade. The success of our community offers a model for how a neighborhood can come together in the city and reinvent itself. By

energizing our residents and stakeholders, we have managed to create a dynamic community that has been adding new jobs and housing, improving safety, and building more sustainably. By focusing on economic development, we leveraged over a billion dollars in new commercial, housing and infrastructure investments.

Looking back, I am proud of what we accomplished in Ward 15. But now, I am looking forward.

As a long-held council tradition, I will be recommending Jenny Spencer as my successor. She is a long-standing Detroit Shoreway resident and has served as Man-

aging Director of Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization since 2014. Jenny and I share the same passion and love for the

Cudell, Detroit Shoreway and Edgewater neighborhoods.

Ward 15 Councilman Matt Zone

City Council approves legislation to stabilize hillside at Irishtown bend

At its September 23rd meeting Cleveland City Council adopted legislation (Ord. No. 592-2020) authorizing the city to join the Cuyahoga County Port Authority on a major project to stabilize a hillside eroding into the Cuyahoga River, threatening commercial shipping. The hillside, known as Irishtown Bend, sits along a section of Franklin

Boulevard just east of West 25th Street which overlooks a bend in the river.

The \$25.5 million project includes rebuilding 2,600 feet of bulkhead along the riverbank and building a 17-acre park with a view of downtown Cleveland. The city's share of the project is \$1 million. The work is scheduled to begin in early 2022.

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, September 5, 2020; St. Rocco Church, 3205 Fulton Road: Volunteers from St. Rocco's Parish keep track of food orders as cars filled with people line up on the parking lot to order traditional Labor Day Weekend Italian Festival foods such as zeppoli, sausage sandwiches, lasagna, spaghetti and meatballs, cannoli and lemoncello cake.

CLEVELAND COMMUNITY POLICE COMMISSION

continued from page one

while he was on duty. Bakeman said his unit, which initially didn't have a name of the Police Sergeant, was able to compare times and locations from the witness to duty reports and tracking information from the police vehicle to identify the officer involved. The officer was disciplined for his actions and forced to retire.

Bakeman said improvements in the time it takes to investigate a case allow his office to interview witnesses while their memory is still fresh. He stressed that not all police officers are cut out to be internal affairs investigators. He said he replaced a number of people in the office and now has staff that have the writing skills to prepare the 30-to-40-page reports required in many cases.

Bakeman said anyone who has a question about the status of their

complaint about officer misconduct can contact him directly at 216-623-5551. He said inmates in jails and prisons also have called him or sent him letters to register complaints.

Co-chair Richard Jackson said a recent retreat of members of the Community Police Commission and representatives of the City of Cleveland Division of Police helped to improve relations between the parties and improve the ability of the Community Police Commission to obtain information it has requested. He said there is still a way to go on both sides. He cited the presence of Bakeman at the meeting as an example of improved relations.

Commission Member Professor Lewis Katz expressed concern about federal interventions in local policing such as Operation Legend and Operation Relentless Pursuit

and their impact on local police reform efforts. He said he had asked United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio Justin Herdman if the United States government had any interest in providing resources to address some of the social issues behind crime as part of these efforts. He said the U.S. Attorney acknowledged the federal programs were “straight police actions.”

Lacking a real effort to address the social determinants of crime, Professor Katz called the federal operations which Cleveland Police are participating “A political ploy to institute a law enforcement mentality to ensure re-election of our president.”

Commission Co-Chair Richard Jackson reported that the Commission's Discipline Work Group met with the City of Cleveland on September 3rd to present their recommendation on new discipline policies for the Cleveland Police Department. He said he believes the new policy recommendations will make it easier to terminate a bad officer and also will allow existing officers to know what they can expect as discipline for various offences.

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A graphic with a blue border. On the left is a blue square containing a white checkmark. To the right of the square, the text "PLAIN PRESS" is written in large, bold, black capital letters, followed by "ADS = VOTES" in the same style. Below this, the question "Are you running for an elective office?" is written in bold black text. Underneath the question is a paragraph of text: "There are over 100,000 people living in the 10 West Side of Cleveland neighborhoods served by the Plain Press. Want to reach them?" This is followed by the text "Advertise in the Plain Press." in red, and then "Contact Ed Tishel at:" in bold black, with the email address "plainpressads@yahoo.com" in blue.

Community raises over \$50,000 to grant to businesses in Gordon Square Arts District

Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization (DSCDO) applauds our community for raising \$55,474 through the organization's Fast Forward Fund to provide relief to small businesses and non-profits in the Gordon Square Arts District. Local anonymous donors have matched \$27,737 in contributions, and 19 businesses received grants to cover expenses and adaptations due to COVID-19.

“This rallying of support by nearly 140 donors has kept many of our beloved businesses operational,” said Jessica Trivisonno, DSCDO’s Director of

Under the proposed policies violations of policy are grouped in four categories. Group one offenses are to be disciplined with 1 to 6 days of suspension; Group 2 with 7 to 9 days suspension; Group 3 with 10 to 30 days suspension; and Group Four violations would result in automatic termination.

Jackson said having set penalties would mean “everyone gets the same thing regardless of what your last name is or who you know.” He said this would take away arbitration settlements and lawsuits based on cases where another officer received less of a penalty for the same infraction because of inconsistent discipline. He said the committee would be meeting again in October and November to fine tune the proposal and expected to have the policy wrapped up and ready to go to the Consent Decree Monitor by the end of the year. Jackson said, “Thank you to everyone who assisted with the discipline policy. It is a work of art.”

Commission Member Meg Testa reported on the Officer Wellness Committee's work. She said the goal of the committee is to look at the current officer wellness policies and at best practices from around the country. The committee plans to do a needs assessment and work on recommendations for policy changes.

Commission member G. Maxwell reported on Homicide Investigations from a Community Perspective. She said they hope to find out from homicide victim's families about their experience with the homicide unit. She said the group is having some difficulty reaching family members. She said families can share their experience with the homicide unit by sending her an email at gmaxwell@clepcorg.org or calling Shaleneh Williams at 216-857-3114 or emailing her at sWilliams@clepcpg.org.

Professor Katz said there are ninety-three families in Cleveland where family members were victims of police brutality. He named a number of the family members and said he believed they would be more

Economic Development. “But we have nearly depleted our available funds and will need to keep raising if we want to support additional businesses in need.”

"I am beyond grateful," said Hillary Gent, owner of HEDGE Gallery at 78th Street Studios and recipient of a \$3,000 grant. "As an art- and event-related business, this has been the strangest time to attempt to run a business. Some days are full of positive energy and new ideas, but others can be very depressing. The fact that, in the midst of total

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than willing to offer their input to the committee.

Co-Chair Fredrick Knuckles reported that the Youth Engagement Committee recently received notice that it will receive \$18,000 that will allow it to offer stipends to city of Cleveland youth that wish to become engaged with the Community Police Commission. This he said will help with their goal of becoming more inclusive.

Commission Member Latoya Logan, who chairs the Accountability Committee, said as an advocate for justice she is concerned as a black woman that the police department doesn't value her life. She talked about the death of Breonna Taylor in Louisville Kentucky that resulted after police entered her apartment with a no-knock warrant. Logan asked why no knock warrants were allowed. She also expressed concern that Desmond Franklin was killed by an off-duty Cleveland Police Officer on Pearl Road in early April of this year and "and we still haven't heard anything" about the investigation into his death. She said to her accountability means police officers should be subject to the same penalty as any citizen.

Logan said she sees the Consent Decree as a living document. Speaking to the community Logan said, "It is up to you to get involved." She said the commission members are representatives of the community and need to know what police reforms people would like to see. She urged residents to go to the Community Police Commission's website at clepcp.org and make sure you complete a survey. You can also go directly to the survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/tr/CPC-CSS-2020>.

Logan also urged residents to contact Cleveland City Council members and express their concern that Cleveland City Council has increased funding for over-policing in Cleveland neighborhoods, but has not increased funding to address issues like homelessness, addiction and other social determinants of crime.

Professor Katz urged community members to get involved in an effort to make the Community Police Commission a permanent body that works toward police reform beyond the time period of the Consent Decree. He said a group called Committee for Police Accountability headed by Dave Lima was working toward this objective. Professor Katz said those interested in information about the group can contact him at l.katz@clecpc.org for contact information.

Near the end of the meeting, CPC Co-Chair Sergeant Richard Jackson announced to the group that he would be resigning from the CPC in November. Jackson, who represents Black Shield on the Commission, said that Black Shield would be appointing a new representative. Jackson said he is retiring after 36 years as a Cleveland Police Officer.

The Commission elected two new co-chairs for 2021: Victoria Marion and Lewis Katz.

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EYEJ compiling accurate, up-to-date portrait of Cleveland’s digital divide

Cleveland’s digital divide has emerged as a central issue for Empowering Youth, Exploring Justice (EYEJ). Compelled by its mission to improve the lives of young people, EYEJ is actively engaged in an effort to fully understand and support real solutions to the widespread lack of broadband internet access in Cleveland.

EYEJ is digging deeply, compiling the latest available figures into a searchable database. Preliminary, general results reveal strong relationships between race, poverty, and internet access. In certain predominantly poorer, Hispanic and African-American neighborhoods, 50 to 70 percent of homes have no internet subscriptions.

This is especially problematic during the coronavirus pandemic, when the Cleveland Metropolitan School District is operating virtually. It is likely many students do not have the high-speed Internet service required to take part in online classes and complete school-work.

“The issue is greater than what people are aware of,” said Casey Morris, the Microsoft consultant and EYEJ Col-

lective Board member developing the database. “The neighborhoods that can’t have this type of service are going to fall behind. We really need to have a serious focus on addressing these disparities.”

One barrier to broadband access is the cost of broadband subscriptions. The other is subtle and more challenging: “redlining,” the practice by internet providers of limiting service options in certain neighborhoods according to their racial or economic profiles. In Cleveland, it is rampant.

This is the problem EYEJ seeks to illuminate. Executive Director Mai Moore said many are aware of Cleveland’s digital divide but most are using outdated, overly broad information. Pending funding to support its effort, EYEJ intends to complete its database and provide officials and the public with the most current and detailed analysis possible.

“A lot of decisions are being made on very broad, general information,” Moore said. “If we want equity, we need to be really honest about what the truth is.”



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, September 2, 2020; Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for new Garrett Morgan High School Building, 4600 Detroit Avenue: When Garrett Morgan students finally are able to go back to school, this new building awaits. The building will house two schools: the Garrett Morgan School of Leadership and Innovation led by Principal Anshawn M. Ivery; and the Garrett Morgan School of Engineering and Innovation led by Principal Quenton Davis.

FOSTER CARE

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unification are still waiting, months later, to finish the process.

Many biological parents have gone months with only telephone and video visits, or no visits at all, which disrupts their ability to build and maintain a stable and nurturing relationship with their children during separation.

“It was hard because I really wanted to see them,” Carlitta said of the first time she and Lionel were forced to miss an in-person visit.

That’s a particular problem for the more than 800 children under the age of 3 in foster care who are too young to benefit from the technology.

“There’s not much you can really do for a newborn baby on FaceTime besides see them,” said Karla Trammell, University Settlement’s system of care manager.

Visits go virtual

Though the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) never banned in-person visits during the pandemic, virtual visits using Skype, Face-time and other online video platforms were encouraged whenever possible, said Jacqueline McCray, deputy director of the agency.

For many families in the Slavic Village area, virtual visits didn’t work out very well, Trammell said.

“We had a lot of families that were not getting their virtual visitations,” said Trammell. “We’ve had families who have come back ...who didn’t see their kids for two months.”

Impact on bonding

For children 1 and younger who are still in the process of forming an attachment to their parents, loss of physical contact can be particularly damaging to the relationship.

“It’s especially important to form good bonds at that age,” said Dr. Catherine Lipman, a developmental-behavioral pediatrician at University Hospitals who works with foster families. “It establishes social and emotional health then and how to have appropriate relationships... going forward.”

One Cleveland-area foster mother, who asked that her name not be used said that while the 1-year-old girl in her custody is getting regular video calls with her parents, she can see their relationship suffering. “I feel like for our foster baby, that she’s missing out on having that connection with her family. I feel a lot of guilt for that.”

Bonding happens when parents hold, comfort, cradle, talk to and feed their babies. It helps to release

hormones and other chemicals in the brain that calm and regulate mood and encourage brain growth, research shows.

It’s a difficult balance, DCFS officials said, as they try to safeguard the health of everyone involved, including county workers who usually conduct in-home visits with families.

Beth Uchaker, a foster mother to a 2-year-old in Lakewood, said the thought of in-person visitation has been scary because she has medically fragile children in her home who may be more susceptible to the virus.

“You don’t know how the other families are going to take the precautions ... so you’re afraid,” she said. “The thing is that they’re entitled to see their child and they’ve got to be just as freaked out as I am.”

Uchaker worries that resuming visits for her foster child, who hasn’t seen his mother since the second week of February, will be difficult. “He’s so stable right now and is doing so well,” she said. “All of those changes and stresses affect them so deeply.”

Reunification delays

For parents like Lionel and Carlitta, it’s been hard to get information on what will happen with their court cases since there have been no hearings — in-person or virtually — since February, according to the court’s docket.

Hearings for children in foster care are held at the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, which closed except for essential staff on March 16, post-

poning hearings in most cases.

Magistrates and judges have discretion whether to hold remote hearings.

The county took custody of Lionel and Carlitta’s three children in October of 2019, when police raided the home where Carlitta and the children were living. Workers said they found evidence of unsafe conditions, including illegal drugs and trafficking by other people who lived there. Both parents admitted to using alcohol and marijuana and county workers said they needed to work to create a safer environment for the children and to address one child’s developmental delays.

The couple said they are working through a list of requirements county workers said they must complete before they can regain custody. The two said they have taken parenting classes and received mental health assessments as well as regular screening for drug use. They have their own house and Lionel has a job at a packing and shipping warehouse in Solon.

Before the pandemic, they hoped to be reunited with their children by Sept. 29. Now, that date is uncertain, and the couple aren’t sure if they’ll be granted an extension should they fail to complete all of the court’s requirements before then.

The pandemic has made each step seem harder, they said. Agencies that did drug-use assessments were shuttered for some time before

going virtual.

“[I]t’s like [one] roadblock after another, and I’m doing everything I can,” Lionel said, his voice breaking.

Still, they’re grateful to be able to see the kids, even if they have to do so wearing masks. One-year-old Imari was afraid of Lionel when she first saw him in a mask, he said, and 4-year-old Regis is always trying to take his off.

“I love it, though,” Carlitta said, smiling. “It’s so fun seeing them.”

“It would be better if they was at home,” Lionel said.

Editor’s note: *This story is provided by ideastream as part of special community coverage of COVID-19 and funded by Third Federal Foundation and University Settlement.*

W. 14TH AND KENILWORTH

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live-streamed hearing on YouTube.

The Board of Zoning Appeals is a 5-member body responsible for hearing appeals from individuals who are requesting exceptions or variances for City Ordinances in regard to land use and building requirements or from individuals who are questioning the appropriateness of orders made by City officials, according to the City of Cleveland website. It is the Board’s goal to treat all individuals fairly and courteously. Each appeal is heard and decided on its own merit.

BZA Board Members include Carol A. Johnson (Chairperson), Tim Donovan, Myrlene Barnes, Kelley Britt, and Alanna Faith.

At stake with the appeal was a request by developers for a variance on parking. In September 2019, Maison Architect + Design and Rust Belt Development, led by Sam Messina, David Maison, and Brent Zimmerman, proposed demolition of the rectory (housing that the Byzantine Church provided for priests and nuns) on the lot just south of the parking lot. The Local Design Review Committee for the Tremont Historic District asked the Landmarks Commission of the City of Cleveland to deny the demolition request.

Maison Architect + Design and Rust Belt Development responded with new plans for 49 market-rate one-bedroom apartments starting at \$1,100-\$1,700

month. The new configuration provides no parking. Occupants will have to lease parking from a third party or park their cars on the street.

Last July, the Landmarks Commission voted in favor of the project with three conditions: lower the rear building on Starkweather Ave by one story to allow more visibility for the Holy Ghost Byzantine Church; provide some kind of drive thru or drop off and pick up area for delivery vehicles like UPS, Uber, Lyft, and food delivery services; and approval of the parking variance by the Board of

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, September 5, 2020; West Side Market: Members of Cleveland Peace Action offer an anti-war and anti-nuclear bomb message to West Side Market shoppers. The group holds a peace vigil at the rear of the West Side Market each Saturday at 11 a.m.

GORDON SQUARE

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uncertainty, there are donors who have been moved to give so generously truly restores hope for the future of our communities and local entrepreneurs.”

Anyone in the Greater Cleveland community can donate to the Fast Forward Fund online at dscdo.org/fastforwardfund. The anonymous donors will double each donation until the total amount raised exceeds \$100,000. These donors, longtime advocates for Cleveland neighborhoods and residents of the area, seek to continue the community’s two decades of investment in economic vitality around the arts district. In addition to community members, other donors have included PNC Bank, Platform Beer Co., and Ohio CDC Association.

The Fast Forward Fund continues to provide grants of \$500 to \$5,000 based on need and as funding becomes available, prioritizing minority- and women-owned businesses. Many recipients have used the grant funds to make purchases necessitated by the pandemic; both Toast and Ninja City plan to purchase heaters to extend their patio seasons. Others have found innovative ways to adapt their work; Maelstrom Collaborative Arts produced eight weekends of performances and art shows by a diverse cohort of local artists right in its storefront windows. Love Threading Bar, an Egyptian- and woman-owned salon, received \$2,000 to rehire and protect employees.

Ten percent of all funds raised are reserved as start-up capital for new minority-owned businesses looking to open in vacant storefronts in Gordon Square, to continuing

growing the number of businesses owned by women and people of color. Interested business owners should contact Jessica Trivisonno at jtrivisonno@dscdo.org or (216) 961-4242 x302.

Existing and independently owned storefront, retail, and non-profit establishments in Gordon Square with 30 or fewer employees can apply for grants at dscdo.org/fastforwardfund. As part of its economic development and business assistance work, DSCDO administers the Fast Forward Fund with a grant committee, with grants issued on a rolling basis. Businesses can layer the Fast Forward Fund with other existing forms of support offered by the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, and other sources.

In order to receive funding, applicants must explain how COVID-19 has impacted their revenue and how grant funds will enable them to pay operational expenses or adjust their business model. Each applicant may only receive a grant once. Businesses who do not receive grants in an initial round will be automatically reconsidered in subsequent rounds.

For updates on the Fast Forward Fund, follow DSCDO (@detroitshoreway) on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. For arts and other happenings in the district, follow Gordon Square Arts District (@gordonsquare) on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

November 3, 2020 General Election What’s on the Ballot?

Registered voters can check to see what is on the ballot by visiting the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website at: boe.cuyahogacounty.gov and clicking on “What’s on my ballot?”. Fill in the information requested – election date, City, ward and precinct and nonpartisan election. If you don’t know your ward and precinct there is a prompt to help you get your voter information. Once you have put in the information you can hit “Find my ballot.” A sample ballot will appear. You can read it -- or print it if you wish.

The ballot includes four sets of candidates running for president and vice president: Donald J. Trump and Michael R. Pence; Joseph R. Biden and Kamala D. Harris; Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker; and Jo Jorgensen and Spike Cohen. Voters will also have the option to write in the name of a candidate for president and vice president.

Voters will also have the opportunity to choose a candidate to represent them in Congress. The candidates will depend on which Congressional District you live. The area served by the Plain Press has parts of two different Congressional Districts. In the 9th Congressional District Democratic candidate Marcy Kaptur will face Republican candidate Rob Weber. In the 11th Congressional District Democrat Marcia L. Fudge is facing Republican Laverne Gore.

There are a number of State House of Representative Districts in the Plain Press service area: Districts 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15. In District 10, State Representative Terrence Upchurch is running unopposed. In District 11 Democrat Stephanie Howse is running unopposed. In District 13 Democrat Michael J. Skindell is facing Republican Daniel Harrington. In District 14 Democrat Bride Rose Sweeney is facing Republican Lynn McMahan. In District 15, Democrat Jeffrey A. Crossman is facing Republican Kevin C. Kussmaul.

There are a number of candidates on the ballot that are running unopposed. On the remainder of the bal-

lot description we will list only races where offices are being contested.

In the contest for District 11 of the State Board of Education the candidates are Michele Elba, Meryl Johnson and Rocky Neale.

For Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court full term commencing 1-1-2021 the candidates are John P. O'Donnell and Sharon L. Kennedy.

For Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court full term commencing 1-2-2021 the candidates are Judi French and Jennifer Brunner.

In the Eighth District Court of Appeals there is a contested race between Pamela A. Hawkins and Emanuella D. Groves for a full term commencing 2-11-2021.

In the Eighth District Court of Appeals two candidates are competing for an unexpired term ending 1-1-23. The candidates are Ray Headen and Lisa Forbes.

In the General Division of the Common Pleas Court there are three contested races. For a full term commencing 1/3/2021 the candidates are William Vodrey and Kenneth R. Callahan. For the full term commencing 1/6/2021 the candidates are Andrew J. Santoli and Robert C. McClelland. For an unexpired term ending 1-2-2023 the candidates are Wanda C. Jones and Richard A. Bell.

The Court of Common Pleas Domestic Relations Division features a race between Colleen Ann Reali and James Cochran for a full term commencing 1-8-2021.

Voters will also be asked to weigh in on a proposed tax levy (renewal and increase) for the Cleveland Municipal School District. The levy language reads: A renewal of 15 mills and an increase of 5 mills to constitute a tax for the benefit of the Cleveland Municipal School District for the purpose of current expenses of the school district and of partnering community schools at a rate not exceeding 20 mills for each one dollar of valuation (of which 1.5 mills is to be allocated to partnering community schools), which amounts to \$2.00 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for ten years, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021.

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COMMUNITY BOARD

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join us! Watch the live lessons on Monday mornings at [facebook.com/detroitshoreway](https://www.facebook.com/detroitshoreway) or search “Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization” in your Facebook app. For questions, call Alicia at 216.961.9073 ext. 235. You can replay the previous lessons: “[Introduction to Computers](#)” and “[The Internet](#)”.

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.

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/ClevelandMetroparksZoo) 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/ClevelandMetroparksZoo) 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.

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 2020
DISABILITY RIGHTS OHIO offers information on voting rights for persons with disabilities on its website: www.disabilityrightsohio.org/voting
REGISTER TO VOTE or update your registration at VoteOhio.gov. The deadline to register is Monday October 5th at 9 p.m. in order to participate in the Tuesday, November 3rd General Election. The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections (boe.cuyahogacounty.us) also has links on its website to update your address or register to vote, or to print out a blank voter registration form. You can also pick up a voter registration form at your local library.
REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT via Cuyahoga County Board of Elections: www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us : **Step by Step Guide to Vote by Mail:** 1) **Click here** ([visit boe.cuyahogacounty.us](https://boe.cuyahogacounty.us)) to request or print an Absentee Ballot Request Form 2) Complete and Return your Absentee Request Form. 3) Wait for your ballot to arrive by mail. 4) Mail it or return it to the County Board of Elections ASAP to prevent the post office from being overwhelmed with too many to deliver at the last minute.

VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS: The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections will begin mailing Vote By Mail Ballots to voters that have requested an absentee ballot on October 6th. Once you have mailed in your ballot you can check the status of your ballot by going to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website at boe.cuyahogacounty.gov and clicking on Track My Ballot. You will then be asked for your last name and your date of birth in order to see the status of your ballot.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, 2925 Euclid Avenue, will hold early voting hours from October 6th through November 2nd. If you would like to vote in person at the Board of Elections the hours are: Weekdays October 6 thru October 16, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Weekdays October 19-23, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Saturday, October 24, 8 a.m. – 4p.m.; Sunday, October 25, 1-5 p.m.; Weekdays, October 26-30th, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Saturday, October 31, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sunday, November 1, 1-5 p.m. and Monday November 2, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT
LEAD SAFE WORKERS are needed to make Cleveland houses safe for children to live in. If you are interested in becoming a Lead Safe Worker visit the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition’s website at leadsafeCLE.org to complete the Workforce Development Referral and Screening tool

to submit your interest in receiving free training to join the lead safe workforce.

ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES SEEK WILLING AND ABLE WORKERS during this time through Coronavirus.Ohio.gov/Job-Search. Employers at essential businesses are also encouraged to post job openings on the site.

OHIO MEANS JOBS: Complete an application at www.ohiomeansjobs.com AND a local application at www.omjcc.us.

FOOD
THE FULTON BRANCH OF THE CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, 3545 Fulton Road, will be offering children’s meals Monday thru Friday from 3-4 p.m. on a first come first served basis throughout the school year (beginning August 31st).

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT (CMSD) is providing grab and go meals to Cleveland children ages 18 or younger. **Option One:** Grab and Go meals at all K-8 school sites on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. On Tuesdays meals may be picked up for Tuesday and Wednesday. **Option Two:** Grab and Go meals at all CMSD High Schools available for once a week pick up every Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students, parents or caregivers can go to the school building closest to their home.

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH HUNGER CENTER, 2486 W. 14th Street, distributes takeout meals at the hunger center door daily Monday thru Sunday at 11:30 a.m. For more information call 216-781-5530.

MAY DUGAN CENTER, 4115 Bridge Ave., will host drive through food distribution each month. For more information and to register to pick up food visit their website at www.maydugancenter.net.

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 PREVENTION ACTION ALLIANCE urges parents to make children aware of the dangers of social media – digital dares to abuse drugs. Learn more about Prevention Action Alliance and how to play your role in prevention at preventionactionalliance.org. In the event of an overdose, call the Poison Help hotline at 1-800-222-1222.

CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS available at McCafferty Health Center, 4242 Lorain Avenue, from 9 a.m. till noon on Wednesdays. Call 644-6603 to make an appointment. Bring your child’s immunization records. Only the parent and the child receiving immunizations will be permitted in the clinic.

FREE LEAD SCREENING is available at McCafferty Health Center from the Cleveland Department of Public Health. Call 664-6603 for more information and to make an appointment.

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

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

HOMELESSNESS
HOMELESS SEEKING SHELTER: The Coordinated Intake and Assessment system will be accessible by phone at **216-674-6700**, available from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday. The United Way First Call for Help line is available at 2-1-1 during all other evening and weekend hours.

HELP LINES
STATEWIDE RESOURCES FOR HELP WITH PROBLEM GAMBLING: Get Set Before You Bet, BeforeYouBet.org; Keep it Fun Ohio, KeepItFunOhio.com; The Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline, 800-589-9966 or GamblingHelpOhio.org; and Problem Gambling Network of Ohio, PGNOhio.org. Gambling support services are available at no or little cost to all Ohio residents. Please contact Problem Gambling Network of Ohio at INFO@PGNOhio.org for more information on Ohio’s measures to ensure support is available to those impacted by gambling.

LEGAL HELP
FREE EVICTION HELP: The Right to Counsel – Cleveland Program (RTC-C) gives Clevelanders facing eviction living at or below the federal poverty line with

at least one child the right to free legal help in Housing Court. If you are facing eviction, have a child, and are living at/ below the federal poverty contact Legal Aid online at FreeEvictionHelp.org or call 216.687.1900.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Are you or is someone you know struggling to pay rent due to the COVID-19 crisis? The newly created \$6.8 million Cuyahoga County Relief Fund, administered by CHN Housing Partners, provides emergency rental assistance for up to 90 days to income-eligible tenants. Payments will be made to landlords. Households that are at 120% of median income are eligible; for example, a family of four with an annual income of around \$90,000 will qualify for the program. Applications are available here: <https://chnhousingpartners.org/rentalassistance/> or call 833-377-RENT (7368).

OHIO LEGAL HELP, runs OhioLegalHelp.org, a free legal help website that provides forums, legal information, and referrals to community resources in critical areas such as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s moratorium on evictions (through December 31st of this year), unemployment benefits, foreclosures and domestic violence.

LIBRARIES
CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY welcomes the community back into its branches on a minimal occupancy schedule, face masks required. On a limited basis, patrons are now able to use the computers, browse the collection, print, copy, fax, charge phones, apply for benefits, seek employment, etc. Library meeting rooms will not be made available for the time being. Library hours are Monday thru Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hours for immunocompromised individuals: 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY VIRTUAL PROGRAMS, including Kindergarten Readiness, are available at CPL.org.

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
CANALWAY PARTNERS offers Take a Hike Self-Guided Audio Tours. Use your mobile device to access tours at: www.TakeaHikeCLE.com.

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 @ baseballheritagemuseumCLE is using Facebook and Instagram to post homeschooling help, baseball instruction tips, fun activities and links to other resources that will help

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

FOR RENT
SEEKING SECTION 8 LANDLORD to accept 1 Bedroom Voucher. West Side Cleveland. 216-312-9746.

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

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, September 5, 2020, Edgewater Park: Veronica and David Toby of Rochester Hills, Michigan (just outside of Detroit) get a kite ready for a visit with their grandchildren who are set to arrive soon, travelling from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They chose Edgewater Park for a beautiful, safe, outdoor, halfway meeting place.

keep you connected to the museum, baseball and each other.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN aims to show how residents are “Spreading Joy” during COVID-19 Pandemic by using the hashtag #SpreadingJoyNEO share ideas and joy and inspire others to do things that feel good for them.

SUPPORT GROUPS
OHIO PROBLEM GAMBLING HOTLINE: If you or a loved one might have a

gambling problem, you can take the short, nine question quiz at <https://www.beforeyoubet.org/the-quiz/>. In addition to the quiz, the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline (800.589.9966) is available 24/7 to provide support and information for those who are experiencing gambling problems, whether it be the individual gambler or a loved one. Certified gambling counselors are on-call every evening and weekend to provide help emotional support and resources for callers. Help and hope are only a call away!

View more Community Board notices and articles online at: <https://plainpress.blog>

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Not working while your children learn from home? You might qualify for unemployment: Q & A

by Brie Zeltner

Parents and other caregivers of children who are learning at home while schools are closed-- even if for part of the week-- can receive weekly cash benefits, regardless of whether they would normally qualify for unemployment.

That's according to guidance released at the end of August from the U.S. Department of Labor about who is eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). The program, part of the federal government's COVID-19 relief plan, is aimed at those affected by the virus who are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits.

Workers entitled to benefits via PUA, which pays a minimum of \$189 per week and often far more, include those

- diagnosed with the coronavirus;
- caring for someone in the same household who has COVID-19;
- in quarantine due to the pandemic, or
- who have had to quit their jobs or reduce their work hours due to the virus.

The new guidance makes clear that parents and other caregivers who have left jobs or lost income in order to care for kids learning from home this school year, and who cannot work from home, are also entitled to Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. The benefits are not available, however, for those who have chosen to have their children learn from home when in-person classes are being offered.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services guidance concerning

childcare and the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program is available on their website at: jfs.ohio.gov.

- [Read Ohio's guidance here](#)

Zach Schiller, research director for Policy Matters Ohio, a progressive think tank, said he's been hounding state officials and trying to spread the word in education circles about what could be "a significant benefit" for many parents. A benefit many don't even know about.

Parents and caregivers eligible for PUA this fall could receive what they'd be entitled to if they qualified for regular unemployment, plus \$300 per week in federal payments. That's half of what was available earlier in the year, when the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program paid unemployed workers an extra \$600 a week. The \$600 weekly extra payment expired July 25.

Schiller is concerned that many won't take advantage of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance benefits because the guidance was released so late, and because the application process can be complicated.

Here's what you need to know about PUA if you're taking care of kids who are learning at home and you've lost income or been forced to quit your job:

How do I apply?

Online, go to pua.unemployment.ohio.gov, or call the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services at 1-833-604-0774. The department encourages applicants to call on weekends, when

call volume is lowest. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays.

You'll need your social security number as well as your children's dates of birth, address and phone number, driver's license or state ID number, dates of employment for 2019, reason for unemployment, and a 2019 tax return, if available.

Do I have to apply and be rejected for regular unemployment benefits first?

If you made at least \$269 per week in your most recent job and worked 20 weeks or more in the past year, you have to apply for traditional unemployment benefits and receive a determination of eligibility before receiving PUA. If you meet these criteria and quit employment or were fired with good cause and so do not qualify for unemployment, you'll receive a denial and then may receive PUA, if you qualify. That application process is separate from applying for unemployment.

Workers can also go ahead and apply for PUA while waiting for a decision on regular unemployment eligibility.

This may make it difficult for parents to decide whether to quit a job to take care of their kids, Schiller said. "Who wants to quit their job not being totally sure they can get these benefits?" he said.

If you did not earn at least \$269 per week and worked more than 20 weeks

in the past year, you can skip the unemployment application and apply only to PUA, an ODJFS spokesman said.

How long will PUA benefits last?

Only until the end of the year. It's unclear whether the benefits will be extended into the 2021 portion of the school year. The extra \$300 federal payments are available retroactively for those who were out of work from August 1 to September 5.

What if my child attends school in person some days but is home others?

You are still entitled to some assistance. Parents whose children attend school districts with so-called hybrid learning (part in person, part virtual) can file for unemployment for the days their children are learning from home, but must report their income for the days they are able to work, according to the guidelines.

What questions will I need to answer?

- You may be asked if you are the primary caregiver for your child who is learning from home. If multiple parents or caregivers are in the household, the person who can't work because they are helping with school would be eligible for PUA.

- You may be asked if you have an option to work from home. Many jobs cannot be worked remotely. If your job can be done from home, you may be asked whether taking care of your child prevents you from completing your work at home. If not, you would not be eligible.

Editor's Note: *This story is provided by ideastream as part of special community coverage of COVID-19 and funded by Third Federal Foundation and University Settlement.*

W. 14TH AND KENILWORTH

continued from page 5

Zoning Appeals.

According to David Maison, two of the three conditions have been met. "We developed a project that fit within the guides of the Urban Form Overlay," he said. "We've met the criteria."

"We put together a fantastic building for this corner," added Brent Zimmerman. "We're trying to create an affordable place to live. The average cost of car ownership is more than \$8,500 a year. We're paying for 100% utilities with this project, which saves another \$102 month. All in all, we're saving residents \$805 month. When compared to our rents starting between \$1,100 and \$1,700, the net benefit creates a very affordable place to live in Cleveland."

Zimmerman explained that by 2030 over 95% of all car traffic would be autonomous. Car ownership mileage will dwindle by more than 80%. People won't need cars. "Many people are never going back to an office again," he said. "We're not going back to the way it was before COVID19. Large businesses are preparing for it. Remember, we used to ride horses. We don't anymore."

Chairperson Johnson interrupted Zimmerman to call on Cory Riordan.

"Car ownership is not on the agenda," Riordan said. "Parking is the issue. The Auburn-Lincoln Block Club, Tremont West Development Corporation, and Councilman McCormack oppose this project."

Susan Scialabba expressed her dissatisfaction with the review process. Overcrowded parking will damage the neighborhood. The pending issue presented by the Landmarks Commission, which requires signed parking leases within 400 feet of the building, has not been secured, according to her.

"The neighborhood is firmly opposed to this," Scialabba said. "The developers never came back to us with a dedicated parking plan. They never worked with us."

Auburn-Lincoln Block Club member Karla Maschmeier expressed similar concerns.

"We've strenuously recommended to the developers that they create a parking plan that addresses the concerns of the community. They've been to the block club several times but never with a parking plan," Maschmeier said. "As a community group, the developers won't come back to us because we're advisory. It shows lack of good faith and partnership with the community."

Maison defended the developer's

position that parking isn't the primary issue. "We have Letters of Intent for 53 parking spaces," he said. "Nobody agrees with us that we're going to fill this [project] with people that don't utilize a personal vehicle. We fully intend to do this. There's plenty of underutilized parking in the neighborhood if someone searches it out."

Thirty minutes into the meeting, City Planner Matt Moss explained trends changing in transportation and the need to increase density in the neighborhoods. The City of Cleveland Zoning and Planning Commission advised the developers to pursue a design plan that met the living code requirements with off street parking variances. Moss doesn't believe the variances will contribute or create adverse traffic congestion.

"I spoke with City of Cleveland Traffic Commissioner and understanding the general land use of this site it seemed appropriate for us to support this project," Moss said. "Our goal at the Zoning and Planning Commission is to meet a variety of lifestyles. This project provides an income tax base for the City of Cleveland while improving walkability in the neighborhood."

Chairperson Johnson was losing her patience as the meeting dragged on past 12:30PM.

"I want to hear from people that are in favor or opposed to the case," she said. "It's long past due to take a vote with this case."

The majority of remaining participants spoke out against the variance appeal. Johnson called for a motion to vote but no one from the board responded immediately. After a few minutes, BZA member Alanna Faith put forth a motion to pass the zoning appeal provided the developers secure a five-year minimum parking lease agreement.

"We granted a similar variance in Little Italy," Faith said. "I understand that due to the popularity of Tremont, residents are afraid if we add more units to that area it will cause more parking problems," adding, "but I move to approve the variances."

The motion was seconded and a roll call to vote was taken. When Tim Donovan's name was called, his computer screen showed an empty chair and he wasn't there. He was emailed and a text message was sent to him. Donovan was nowhere to be found. A tied 2-2 vote resulted.

A new motion to postpone the hearing was presented. Myrlene Barnes seconded the motion and, with no objections from the board, a date of October 5 was set to vote on the variance appeal.

Maison Architect + Design and Rust Belt Development did not respond to the *Plain Press* request for a comment.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, September 5, 2020; Edgewater Park: This groundhog, out for a late morning snack on some greens, attracts the attention of some dogs and their families.

Visit the Plain Press website at: plainpress.blog for links to websites referenced in this issue.



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